


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

An-Ay



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From the rear flap of the dust jacket for Wings of the Morning:

Daughter of an English biographer-journalist turned Church of England minister, the author as a child invented lands, languages and people about whom she would talk or write. During youth she had some poems, articles and short stories published whilst holding various jobs in either England, Scotland or Wales or else holidaying with her sister in different European countries. As a civil servant in Baghdad, Iraq, after the Second World War, she met and married a Scottish chartered accountant, Sydney G. Anderson. In 1951 they emigrated to Canada, subsequently settling in Ottawa. Some of Mrs. Anderson's shorter writings were published in her adopted country but finally in 1970 she achieved a lifetime ambition by having a novel accepted for publication.

Wings of the Morning; London, Robert Hale (1971, Anderson) 192p.

Patterned after Bellamy's Looking Backward, this novel uses the more modern method of quick-freezing to enable Quinn Radmore to awaken in the year 2020 in the care of an altruistic Dr. Faircrest who has secretly removed him from the vault and revived him. Radmore had been ill, but awakens well and strong, still thinking of the girl he left behind him, and shocked when he discovers that his whole world has gone.

Faircrest's spoiled daughter Zoreli determines to make a conquest of Quinn who is at first shocked and displeased by her aggressive self-seeking, but later falls in love with her. Great cities have been levelled by wars, and most of the modern world is in domed cities, fearing pollution of the outer air. Among the apartment and portable home dwellers, whose living accommodations can be placed by air on stacks of other homes plugged in to a central core for services and power, a few farmers still work old-fashionedly: their cows give natural birth instead of the artificial insemination and breeding practised mainly by both animals and humans; money still supplements the computerized credit facilities; the political parties still compete in the new centers of population, and the scene of this story is a new city near Ottawa.

Faircrest is charged with illegal entry into the vault, but his accidental death makes it impossible to defend himself, and when the trial goes on Zoreli testifies for the prosecution in hopes that Quinn will be forced to testify to information about his resurrection which he would not give to her voluntarily. He is honestly ignorant of Faircrest's reason for reviving him, but is able to expose perjured testimony and win an acquittal for Faircrest. The Judge and the Prosecuting and Defence Attorneys are computers; and since the machine has taken over most labor, the young people seek pleasure and travel as their goals.

Having won publicity through the trial, Quinn forms a New Disciples party based on altruism and the Bible, and the struggle with the other parties culminates at a sports event when Quinn is kidnapped and manages with Zoreli's help to escape, foiling the Opposition party leader. The book closes with Quinn awaiting the election results.

There is little of originality in this book, but it does present a picture of a possible future Canada.

Anderson, Poul

The Golden Slave; New York, Avon (#T-388), (1960, Anderson) 192p.

The Cimbrian hordes, unable to find a home which would support life, in the year 100 B.C. invaded Rome and Eodan, son of their chief Boieric, took prisoner Flavius, a Roman noble, enslaved him until the Romans retaliated and enslaved Eodan in turn. Eodan's wife Hwicca, killed their baby son rather than have him enslaved, but herself became mistress and slave to Flavius, becoming enamored of him to the degree that she could not choose between the Roman and Eodan when he arrived to rescue her.

Helped by Phryne, a Greek slave of Flavius' wife, Eodan and Hwicca escaped to join and aid Mithradates, conqueror of many lands, a giant King. Eodan has been sexually promiscuous, not realizing that this is unusual and that Phryne loves him and deplores his actions, saying that, when Flavius, who loves Hwicca, accidentally kills her when she attempts to shield Eodan, that he has found Hwicca easy to forget. Eodan and Phryne ultimately marry.

This is a gory and interesting historical novel, telling much of life long ago. Its sociological aspects are fairly new to me, and I think the book is worth keeping. It is an early novel of the author's and much more mature in tone than I expected it to be.

Anderson, Poul

Rogue Sword; New York, Avon (#T-472), (1960, author)
191p.

Lucas Greco has experiences similar to those of Casanova and after seducing the wife of a merchant prince is made to flee, going to Constantinople and other cities, joining various armies in pillage until he makes friends with a Hospitaller whom he considers as a father.

Stealing a slave girl from the merchant he cuckolded, he has various fighting adventures, finally leading pirates in search of a treasure so that he may rescue the girl from her owner who has repossessed her and intends to sell her into prostitution.

This seems a researched historical novel portraying a barbaric world in the dying days of the Roman Empire.

Well-written, it forecasts the author's successful career later as a science fiction writer.

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Anderson, W. A.

Adventure on the Borderland (The Popular Magazine, October 20, 1919, pp.184-190.)

Mis-titled "Adventures" in Day's Index, this short story is of psychic adventure in the orient. Adventurers, after an evening's drinking, meet a leprous beggar who shakes his begging bowl, and one of them knocks him out of the way from the back of his horse, killing him. Consoling himself that the creature is probably better off dead, he goes on his way, but is later subjected twice to nightmares when he hears the sound of the beggar's bowl, the first time awakening to tell his friend that he has nearly choked himself to death, the second time found dead. The friend narrator says that he is not satisfied that the psychological explanation is correct. .

In the same issue of this magazine, one article without authorship disclosure is headed "Difficulties of a War Between Worlds". It comprises three fairly long paragraphs on page 120, and was probably written by one of the editorial staff as a "filler". It is not important, excepting as an indication that there was interest in science fiction.

Anderson-Evangelista, Anita

Hypnosis: A Journey into the Mind; New York, Arco Publishing Inc. (1980, author); Appendices; Index 237p.

A bit careless in the opening chapter, the author refers to Count Frederick Anton Mesmer, who was a medical doctor, not a Count. Different authorities show his given name as Franz. On page 10 she spells Murphy as Murphey. On page 12, she spells Cagliostro as Calioistro as played by Orson Welles in Black Magic a movie based on Dumas' Joseph Balsamo. Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer, Frozen Ghost, The Hypnotic Eye, (advised by hypnotist Gil Boyne), Exorcist Two, Telefon are movies involving hypnotism.

Novels: The Mesmerist by Felice Picano; The Holland Suggestions by John Dunning; Links by Charles Panati; The Exorcist; and Audrey Rose.

There is much other useful information given in this book, which fortunately has a good index. The author has treated many people, is well in touch with current thought on hypnosis, and in my opinion possesses my view of the reality of supernormal psychic phenomena, devoting chapter 11 to her exposition "Beyond the Body".

I consider this book an excellent modern guide to practical use of hypnosis.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 11,,2000

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Andreae, Christine

Seances & Spiritualists; Philadelphia and New York,
J. B. Lippincott Company; Illustrated; (1974, author); Bib-
liography, Index 157p.

Beginning with the mesmerists and early magnetizers, this little book goes on to outline the history of spiritualism and psychical research. The Fox Sisters, Home, Arthur Ford, Geraldine Cummins, OBE experiences, Edgar Cayce, reincarnation, a sample seance, the aura, emotional life of plants and animals, and the world of dreams, are surveyed.

I had not previously read accounts of Cayce and Ford, though I probably have most of the books relating to their mediumships.

A few minor errors do not affect the value of this book as an introduction to the subject. Occultism, as such, including magic, witchcraft and demonology, is not covered.

Anson, Jay

The Amityville Horror; New York, Bantam Books (#11660), August, 1978; (Sept., 1977, (Author and the Lutz parents) 300p.
Bantam Movie Edition (#13160), July, 1979 269p.

The author bases this account on interviews with the Lutz family and with other participants in the events of 28 days the Lutz family spent in the allegedly haunted mansion formerly occupied by the DeFeo family, six of whom were killed by Ronald DeFeo.

I had previously read books by Hans Holzer based on the tragedy and which indicated that evil spirits, jealous of the occupation of their burial ground by white people were determined to drive them out. These books influenced me to accept the possibility of the troubles the Lutz family experienced. However, Anson in narrating the alleged facts detailed even the thoughts of the people involved, and the lack of confirmation by those people led me to look for reviews of this book.

The SPR did not review the book up to the end of 1980 and I did not search their Journal beyond that date. However, since this book was a best seller in both hardcover and paperback, I found in FATE magazine for May, 1978 an article entitled "The Amityville Hoax" by Rick Moran and Peter Jordan, debunking Anson's account and accusing him of exaggerated use of his imagination.

Anson maintained the truth of his account, but characters in the events denied the alleged facts.

The publishers emphasized the book as "A TRUE STORY". Many other accounts of supernormal events have been challenged that readers must be cautious in accepting any uncritically. That a thorough investigation is warranted is true because there are in fact occurrences which cannot be explained. The SPR was formed to investigate, and has done noble work.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 10, 2003

Anspacher, Louis K.

Challenge of the Unknown: Exploring the Psychic World; New York, Current Books, Inc., A. A. Wyn, Publisher, 1947 (With an Introduction by Waldemar Kaempffert (1947, author); Index 327p.

This is probably the best overview of psychical research known to me. Years of study went into its production, and it is worthy of consideration by theologians, philosophers, scientists and the general public.

Divided into five parts: Techniques of Approach; Psychic Manifestations in Art and Literature; The Present Verdict of Science on Psychic Manifestation; What the Great Philosophers Have Said on the Question of Psychics; and Religion and Psychics: The Bible as a Psychic Document, the scope of the author's research is obvious.

A pupil of James Harvey Hyslop, his teacher was one of the best qualified researchers and writers on psychic phenomena.

Many chief cases are mentioned without detailed description and this is acceptable as the details are available in multitudes of serious and popular books.

No one reading this book is likely to dismiss lightly the author's considered judgment.

This book should be retained for permanent reference.

Coalition for Reproductive Choice,
Box 51, Station "L",
Winnipeg, Man.
R3H 0Z4.

Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

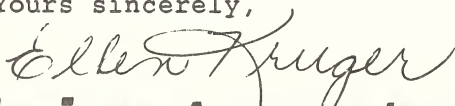
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



Choice A campaign for reproductive freedom
♀

Anthony, Irvin

Revolt at Sea: A Narration of Many Mutinies; Illustrated; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1937, Author) 296p.

These are mainly historical mutinies. They give a very illuminating view of conditions at sea which led to rebellion and to the type of individual whose murderous inclinations caused death to innocent people. The author's research is thorough, as indicated by the bibliography appended, but his ability to summarize the cases is not nearly so clear as that of Borchard.

Anthony, Piers, and Coulson, Robert

But What of Earth?; Don Mills, Ontario, Harlequin Enterprises Limited (Laser Books #72044); (1976, Anthony) 190p.

Rejected for transmission to another planet for colonization purposes, Scot Krebs goes to live on his brother's farm after his brother and family emigrate. Bitter when his intended bride goes along with them, he accepts the companionship of a beautiful girl but rejects her offer of a love relationship. They are joined by a half-starved girl who had previously stolen Scot's car but needs their protection, a giant rover from a marauding gang, and a priest from a respected religious order who is also a martial arts expert.

Earth's dwindling resources and decaying infrastructure have made necessary a return to pioneer methods of survival, and Scot gains in strength and resourcefulness. Contrary to her original offer, the beautiful girl is said by the waif to avoid men, and when she leaves to join the religious order, Scot finds the waif attractive and marries her.

Captured by a small settlement ruled by a tyrant, the rover offers single combat to the tyrant's champion and is tricked into defeat. A return engagement is arranged, but the contenders become friends and the rover chooses the tyrant's champion's sister as his mate. Krebs and his wife substitute a faulty part in the transmitter, causing its destruction to keep emigration of further people from Earth, since they feel that Earth must be rehabilitated.

I am somewhat puzzled by the beautiful girl's original offer of love when she appears to have had lesbian inclinations. Also, Scot appears to have been satisfied to accept the last girl available when the two earlier loves failed him. Although his weakness was overcome by growing strength and ability, he is not the usual strong pulp hero.

There is very little science fiction or fantasy in the post-holocaust world described here; the emphasis is on practical survival.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 10, 1995

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A-No. 1 "The Famous Tramp"

From Coast to Coast with Jack London; Sixth Edition,
1917; The A-No. 1 Publishing Company, Erie, Penn'a; illus-
trated; wraps 136p.

Jack London, on his second return to California from Eastern America, applied for the companionship of Livingston an experienced hobo. In this book, Livingston narrates their adventures during the trip. The author has not the narrative gift of his companion, but tells an entertaining story of the trials and tribulations, brushes with the law and with railroad brakemen, the graft and corruption, the foul jails, the dangers of travel by rail, and the art of panhandling.

With the exception of Charmian London's book, and that of Martin Johnson, this is the only one I know which shows drawings of London and his companion, and which gives biographical details which add to the picture of Jack London to be formed from such books. It is one of a series of eleven books which Livingston wrote about tramp life, and probably the others are equally rare after the lapse of years.

Contents

1. Stairway to the Sea	Thomas Firth Jones	7
2. This Night in Godom	Charles Jules Reiter	95
3. Custom	John Schultz	149
4. The Apostate Heriger	Anthony Thafton	225

(1) A young man sharing an apartment with two girl artists is the lover of one, a near genius whose sexual and habitual routines bother him. The other girl, a big but sexually aggressive girl accepts his attentions, leading the genius to suicide.

(2) The disagreeable style in which this is written is difficult to understand, but primarily it is the story of a teacher in his 70's who, after long sexual abstinence and nearing the end of his failing health, seeks a prostitute; he finds a negro girl who takes him to a party where she meets a former negro lover whose sexual proclivity distracts her from the teacher; the negro lover picks a blonde Jewess, and the prostitute and the teacher leave for a meeting to console each other.



(3) A travelling salesman enters a new town, finding a lot of women; two direct him to a whorehouse, but he enters a home where the mother of several children and her maid succumb to his sexual prowess before the husband returns and throws him out. He continues his search for the whorehouse, injured but still lusty, discovers that the maid is a part-time prostitute in the house, but is denied entry, and at last decides to leave the town without doing business.

(4) The most important of these novelettes concerns a novice who becomes obsessed with bestiality with dogs; seeks a prostitute who occasionally serves priests and whom he feels might cure him of the obsession, but this fails and he is ultimately executed when caught in a bestial act. The nature of obsession, the struggle between conscience and the sins of the flesh, are clearly depicted.

Exdepting the last, there is little to recommend these novelettes; but the first does give some light on the sexual practices of the singles in the sixties.

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Anonymous

Anthology.

20 Great Ghost Stories; Illustrated; New York, Avon
Publications, Inc. (1941, Illustrated Editions Co., Inc.)
127p.

For a listing of these stories, refer to my notes on
Holland's Twenty-five Ghost Stories.

These are also published in the anonymous anthology
entitled The Haunted Hotel by Wilkie Collins, and twenty-
five other Ghost Stories.

Also published as The Perma Book of Ghost Stories (P.94)
Garden City, New York, 1950 180p.

Aucassin and Nicolette; Translated from the old French by Eugene Mason; with Coloured Illustrations by Maxwell Armfield; London, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., New York, E. P. Dutton & Co. 1910 72p.

Many years ago I read Andrew Lang's translation of this minstrel's story, which may have been written as early as 1130.

Having forgotten the story, I re-read it and if I have my notes on the Lang translation, it will be interesting to compare the two.

Nicolette was a beautiful blonde girl bought by a French noble from the Saracens. Aucassin was the son of a count who desired him to marry well, and refused him permission to marry Nicolette, a slave girl. Aucassin made a pact with his father to fight in war and win honour in exchange for a meeting with Nicolette, but his father did not keep his pledge.

Nicolette escaped the confinement her father or owner placed her in, and built a bower in a wood. She bribed shepherds to give a message to Aucassin and he sought her there, falling from his horse in fatigue after his search, and Nicolette fixed his dislocated shoulder.

Still kept apart, Nicolette was captured and taken to Carthage, where she was recognized as the King's daughter stolen in early childhood. Loving Aucassin, she disguised herself as a brunette with dark skin, found her lover and disclosed her identity; they marry and live happily.

The prose narration is interspersed with poetic retelling of incidents in minstrel fashion

Although considered one of the great love stories of the world, it has been retold so often that there is no novelty for the modern reader. As an example of early literature, however, it is interesting.

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Archie the Adventurer, Bantam Books (#H7097), (July,
1971, 2nd Prtg.) Unpaginated

This cartoon book is mainly devoted to fantasy stories
and two are based on flying saucers, so I have set it aside
for Chris Rutkowski. The stories are silly and childish.

Avon Ghost Reader; New York, Avon Book Company (#90)
(1946, Publishers) 258p.

Contents

1. The Dunwich Horror	H. P. Lovecraft	9
2. The Panelled Room	August Derleth	62
3. The Fireplace	Henry S Whitehead	74
4. The Haunted Doll's House	M. R. James	90
5. The Squaw	Bram Stoker	104
6. Wingless Victory	H. F. Heard	119
7. Through the Dragon Glass	A. Merritt	165
8. Naked Lady	Mindret Lord	182
9. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button	F Scott Fitzgerald	196
10. The Bottle Party	John Collier	227
11. By the Waters of Babylon	Stephen Vincent Benet	237
12. The Salamander	William B Seabrook	253

Although I believe I have in other publications all of these stories, excepting, possibly (12), I read all except (5), (7), (9) and (11) from this volume.

This is an excellent sampling of very good writers, and deserves a high place among weird anthologies.

The Avon Story Teller; New York, Avon Book Company 283p.

Contents

1. Che Ti Dice La Patria	Ernest Hemingway	11
2. Pick-Up on Noon Street	Raymond Chandler	24
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4. The Officer Puppet	Franz Werfel	144*
5. Call for Mr. Kenworthy!	Robert Benchley	166
6. Dead Man	James M. Cain	174
7. Counterparts	James Joyce	190
8. The Drone	A. Merritt	205*
9. Dressing Up	W. R. Burnett	219
10. Entrance Fee	Alexander Woolcott	234
11. The Man Who Was in Love with Death	Louis Bromfield	238*

(4) and (11) are stories involving prevision, and (8) is a story of metamorphosis. I read all these stories from this volume, excepting (8) which I read years ago.

I doubt if I would care to re-read any of the stories not in the fantasy category. Many are good, but none exceptional.

Behind the Door of Delusion; New York, The Macmillan Company
1932 (1932, Publishers) 325p.

After spending thousands of dollars in vain attempts to overcome periodic craving for alcohol, the newspaperman who wrote this book agreed with friends that he should be committed to an asylum until he and his physician could agree that his brain had healed sufficiently that he could resist temptation. He distinguishes between the usual appetite for alcohol and brain habituation or addiction. Seabrook's Asylum is the closest comparable book known to me.

This book is well written and interesting. It describes many of the patients, and their manias; gives an outline of the hospital routine and general treatment; the atmosphere of uncertainty prevailing, since the patients can have no idea how long they may be hospitalized; mentions that several of the patients feel that they cannot cope with the outside world and ask to be permanently cared for; the consequences of the segregation of the sexes; and the writer's conviction that the women feel the lack of male companionship even more than the men miss women, and are more brazen in their advances when opportunity such as the dances comes.

The writer was a man of above-average intelligence, and he offers many considered views of legislation and practices relating to mental hospitals. His book would supplement that of Clifford Beers in those respects.

He decries sterilization, favors the retention of strait-jackets as humane and in the interests of the patients, as are the bars on windows; and shows that the treatment of sleeping sickness and other special illnesses, including old age, ought to receive attention in facilities not involving incarceration with the insane, whose warped ideas are contagious and often bring about the unbalancing of the sane.

This is a very good book, and should be required reading for anyone involved in the treatment of the insane.

anonymous

"The Best Terrible Tales from the Italian"; London, William
Reeves 181 pp.

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3. The Betrothed	37	
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8. Lanucci	143	
9. The Lovers	151	
10. The Unlucky Fortune	167	

This collection is not of weird or fantasy tales, but short tragedies, a few of which have elements of terror or horror. Although well written for their time, they lack the dramatic force of more modern narration.

The book is of little or no value in a fantasy collection.

Anonymous

The Black Prince; New York, Zebra/Scorpio Books (#251)
(1977, Scorpio Publishing Corp.), (March, 1977) 144p.

The stilted style of writing makes this a difficult book to read and comprehend, but I agree with its author that the main characteristic of a pimp is his egotistical point-of-view and his selfish determination to eschew anything which weakens his personal profit motive.

Only one or two passages in the book relate to salacious practices; this is strictly a technological and psychological presentation of the qualities and techniques necessary to maintain ascendancy and control over the "stable".

It is work to sift the essential material from the verbiage, but the author knows his subject, separates the real from the pseudo-pimp, and recognizes the danger of admitting any lesbian to his "stable".



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A Century of Ghost Stories; London, Hutchinson & Co.
(Publishers) Ltd.

1013p.

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26. The Operation	Violet Hunt	629
27. The Sweeper	Ex-Private X	657
28. The Running Tide	Do.	673
29. Perez	W. L. George	689
30. The Spectre of Tappington	R. H. Barham	705
31. The Phantom Coach	Amelia B. Edwards	733
32. The Grey Champion	Nathaniel Hawthorne	749
33. Young Goodman Brown	Do.	757
34. The Dream Woman	William Wilkie Collins	773
35. The Lifted Veil	George Eliot	799
36. The Werewolf	Frederick Marryat	843
37. The Ghost-Seer	Frederick Schiller	865
38. The Botathen Ghost	R. S. Hawker	907
39. The Story of the Bagman's Uncle	Charles Dickens	919
40. John Charrington's Wedding	Evelyn Nesbit	939
41. The Klausenburg	Ludwig Tieck	949
42. Berenice	Edgar Allan Poe	989
43. The Haunted Ships	Allan Cunningham	999

The first 29 of these stories constitute the earlier volume issued by the publishers under the title 50 Years of Ghost Stories. (See my notes under that title.)

This is an excellent selection, and many were reprinted in the Oxford University Press two volumes edited by V. H. Collins, in the World's Classics.

#1 is sometimes reprinted in abridged form under the title The Watcher.

Anonymous

The Cloud of Unknowing: A Version in Modern English of
a Fourteenth Century Classic; New York and London, Harper &
Brothers (1948, Publishers) xxvii plus 146p

This text, prepared by a Pendle Hill writer, is based
on earlier versions including Underhill, and is abridged.

It is actually a treatise on prayer and the contempla-
tive life aiming at "oneness" with God: mystical union. It
promotes meekness and charity, withdrawal from the world, a
singlemindedness devotion to love of God the Creator, and
the forsaking of creatures. Past or present moral status is
not material: the future relationship with God all-important.

This version is intended to be carried in the pocket for
constant reference as a guide to prayer.

It is probably a help towards peace of mind for those who
have adopted the devotional life.

"Come Not, Lucifer!": A Romantic Anthology; with illustrations by R. A. Brandt; London, John Westhouse, 1945 267p.

Contents

Publisher's Note

1. King Pest
2. The Case of M. Valdemar
3. The Black Cat
4. Bartleby
5. The Signalman
6. The Watcher
7. The Oath
8. Torture by Hope
9. The Pistol Shot
10. The Queen of Spades
11. Thrawn Janet
12. A Lodging for the Night

Edgar Allan Poe	11
Do.	27*
Do.	39*
Herman Melville	53
Charles Dickens	95*
Sheridan le Fanu	111*
Homere de Balzac	153*
Villiers de l'IsleAdam	177*
Alexander S. Pushkin	185
Do.	201*
Robert Louis Stevenson	231*
Do.	245

#7, #8, #9, and #12 are horror stories rather than fantasy as such, but would probably qualify for volumes of weird tales. #4 is one of the best stories in the volume, for its character drawing and strangeness, and elicits wonder rather than horror. I cannot remember whether I have read #1, which is probably one of Poe's bizarre humor stories, though I may be mistaken.

I believe I have all these stories in other volumes, excepting possibly #4 and #6, but this book is worth keeping for #4 alone.

Concentration and Meditation: A Manual of Mind Development; London, The Buddhist Lodge, 1935; Limited to 500 copies
Bibliography; Glossary; Index 343p.

This is a valuable reference work on its subject, well-written and researched. Although I read it slowly over a period of some months, it deserves study and supplementary reading, as well as practical use.

Like most mystical works, it ends in incomprehensible aphorisms, and it is evident that the writers were mesmerised into accepting nonsense as wisdom.

This does not detract from its value as a reference.

Confessions of a Medium; with Five Illustrations; London, Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh; n.d. (1882) 232p.

A staunch churchgoer attends a seance and is told that he is potentially a powerful medium. He meets and assists Thomson, a medium recently returned from Europe, who hires him to lecture prior to sittings, then to assist in helping the "spirits" produce phenomena, telling him frankly that only about one in four seances produces genuine phenomena.

Parker gradually suspects that all the sittings are fraudulent; Thomson admits this when Parker taxes him with the question. By this time, however, Parker is identified with his senior partner, and is committed to aiding him. A callused attitude on Thomson's part finally disgusts Parker who quits spiritualism after Thomson abandons him in Belgium.

In the course of the narrative, Parker discloses many of the methods used to produce fraudulent phenomena, and he closes by warning of his conviction that all physical media are fraudulent. This is quite an interesting forerunner of Revelations of a Spirit Medium. Both show how easy it is for the inquirer to become a party to fraudulent phenomena.

Whether the names given in the book are accurate, or pseudonymous, I do not know. A copy of the book is in the S.P.R. library.

Anonymous

Davina, or The Romance of Mesmerism; First published in 1882; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1983) 218p.

Davina has mesmeric power which she uses to control the sexual training of men and girls, and exercises particularly on a 15 year old man and his two sisters, both older than he. This is subtitled on the cover as a Victorian Novel, and is characteristic of the pornographic output of that period.

Aside from the unpleasantly incestuous themes which prevail throughout the "story", this is a tasteless exhibition of lust without a trace of love or romantic interest.

Anonymous

Edith's Strange Desire: An Erotic Mystery Story (1970,
Grove Press, Inc.) 127p.

Her husband away, Edith Colhoun meets on a train a distant cousin of the name of Colhoun and is mistaken to be his wife. Erotic adventures on the train comprise the story, and Edith's desire is merely for taking pleasure in "Blow jobs".

This is of no value, either literarily or even as its ostensible titivating quality.

Anonymous (See Tweed, Thomas F.)

Gabriel Over the White House: A Novel of the Presidency;
New York, Farrar & Rinehart Incorporated (1933); 309pp.
(See Tweed: Rinehard)

It appears to me that although this American edition was published in the same year, it is a revision of "Rinehard".

In the American edition, the president's name is Judson Hammond; the narrator's nickname "Elseedee" in the British edition is merely Beek in the American; certain passages are re-arranged and shortened; there are minor alterations such as changing the narrator's birthplace from Boston to New York, and eliminating the British place of birth of his mother: in other words, the book is Americanized. Essentially, it is the same story, but it might prove interesting to study the changes made in the American edition.

Apart from its being a novel of the "future" (at the time it was written), this novel indicates that the president was directed by what the secretaries call the "Angel Gabriel", for he was seen to place his head in a listening attitude at times, and then appear to speak under direction. This fantasy element might well be mentioned in connection with Mackenzie King.

From OPUS 4, published by W. Max Keasler about 1952, in an article "Fantasy in Film" by Roger Dard, pp.19-20:

Movie producers have usually avoided anything savoring of "future history" and one of the few examples of the film which attempted to show the trend of American future life was MGM's GABRIEL OVER THE WHITE HOUSE. By future, I do not mean that the film dealt with scientific gadgets or interplanetary travel. It concerned itself purely with the political, and the sociological future of America. Produced at a time when organized gang mobs were defying law and order, the picture shows an America in which the gangs have become so all-powerful, that finally only the resolute action of the President restores law and order. Declaring martial law, the troops take over the entire nation and summarily execute the gangsters without trial.

From Science Fiction in the Cinema by John Baxter, p.222:

GABRIEL OVER THE WHITE HOUSE. U.S.A. 1933. Director: Gregory La Cava. Screenplay Carey Wilson. Based on the novel by: Thomas Frederic Tweed. Production: M-G-M.

Players: Walter Huston. (See p.147):...went further, using providence as an excuse for some sinister pamphleteering. Walter Huston is a newly inaugurated President of the United States who, while recovering from a car accident, has a heavenly vision: working under divine guidance, he cleans up America in a series of alarmingly familiar moves. The cabinet is sacked, the unemployed organised into an army, gangsters summarily executed. After he has solved the problem of the national debt by putting on a massive show of military strength and literally frightening the country's creditors into silence, he imposes peace on the United States with a simple Fascist dictatorship. Directed by Gregory La Cava with tongue in cheek cynicism, the film nevertheless has an hysterical undercurrent reflecting the plot's combination of religious fanaticism and political expediency.

The Girl with the Hungry Eyes and Other Stories; New York, Avon Publishing Co., Inc. (#184), (1949, Publishers) 127p.

Contents

1. The Girl with the Hungry Eyes	Fritz Leiber, Jr.	3
2. Venus and the Seven Sexes	William Tenn	21
3. Mrs. Manifold	Stephen Grendon	72
4. Daydream	P. Schuyler Miller	86
5. Maturity Night	Frank Belknap Long	99
6. Come into My Parlor	Manly Wade Wellman	113

(1) is an excellent story about the ultimate vampire: a woman-like entity formed by the massed desires of men, who appears to a photographer whom she repels and attracts, insisting that she will pose for him, but will not model for others or make personal contacts for modelling. Photographs of her mesmerize the photographer's customers; one tries to invade the studio to meet her, but is repulsed. The photographer who narrates the story is forbidden to follow her, but does so, and learns that his model is instrumental in the deaths of several men, whom she meets in the street. Trying at last to establish personal relations with her, he is about to succeed when his revulsion saves him; another photographer is her next victim, and the narrator awaits his fate.

(2) is a much-too-long story of a Hollywood producer who must make a picture based on a Venusian race which has seven sexes, and tries to follow the old Hollywood formulas. It is mildly amusing.

(3) is an excellent ghost story, or weird tale, about an immensely fat woman hiring a clerk and requiring him to show her the register of her lodging house each week. Ultimately, the husband she killed and whose corpse she hid in a wine cask, comes ghostly to avenge himself. (I cannot recall the title or author of the story which I believe inspired this tale).

(4) tells of the creation in the flesh of a paper-doll character, who helps his creator beat off a bully who had terrorized the creator as a boy.

(5) a time-travel story of a boy who proves maturity by going back in time and returning safely, though having to use his mutant powers to escape captors in the earlier time. It is the poorest story in this volume.

(6) is based on a legend of a man-eating flower which assumes the appearance of a house to lure its victims, and the narrow escape of a man who refused to listen to the warning of a black gardener.

This is an above-average anthology.

The Haunted Hotel by Wilkie Collins, and twenty-five other Ghost Stories; Introduction by W. L. Parker; Illustrated; New York, Avon Books; no date 240 plus 255p.

The title novel is published completely in Laing's The Haunted Omnibus.

The other 25 stories are reprinted from the omnibus entitled 25 Ghost Stories compiled and edited by W. Bob Holland, to my notes on which I have included a list of the stories.

The Holland book is also published as The Perma Book of Ghost Stories (P.94), (New York, Garden City, 1950) 188p.

House of the Gallery/ 2d Session, 3d Parliament./line/
OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE/ Between the Honorable the First Min-
ister of Duffy, and His Exalted Majesty Night Blooming Ceres,
Monarch of the Moon, Emperor of the Starry Isles, etc., etc.,
relative to the construction of the/ IMPERIAL, LUNAR, GRAND,
MID-AIR, LUNATIC GOVERNMENTAL RAILWAY,/ also the/ REPORTS OF
THE CHIEF ENGINEER, and the/ DRAFT TREATY IN RELATION TO THE
SAME,/ with the SPEECH FROM THE THRONE./line/ Printed in com-
pliance with a Resolution of the House of the Gallery, dated
March 31st, 1875./line/ Ottawa./ Printed by the Citizen Prin-
ting and Publishing Company, 1875.

The title summarizes this probable lampoon of some ap-
parently impractical political scheme to build a railway, and
this photostat was obtained for me by Miss B. M. Bodner of
the Winnipeg Public Library from the Public Archives of Nova
Scotia (Call number AK PR H81) on May 10, 1972.

Somewhat dubiously, I agree that Waters was correct in
classifying this as fiction. It has many humorous passages,
and would probably qualify for inclusion in Wright and Rap-
port's "To the Moon", Marjorie Hope Nicolson's "Voyages to
the Moon", or Pizor and Comp's "The Man in the Moone and
Other Lunar Fantasies", but was apparently unknown to these
authorities. This is not, properly speaking, a serious or
romantic attempt to portray a "moon voyage", but a humorous
bit of fun-poking cast in the form of a government document.
The "Speech from the Throne" is cast in the form of free verse;
the opening letter from the "Ethereal Government of Moonland
to Duffy's First Minister" is dated from "Palace of Lunar,
16th Kino" and signed by "Muhn Shyne, Visionary Extraordinary";
the exploratory survey is signed by "Paul Ford, Engineer in
Chief of the Lunatic Railway Survey"; and the draft treaty
drawn by these two sets forth the terms and conditions of the
financing and operation, objectives and purposes, of the rail-
way from the Earth to the Moon. Considering that this was
published only ten years or so after Jules Verne's "From the
Earth to the Moon", it seems to constitute an early Canadian
example of the use of the idea.

Including the title-page, this pamphlet is only twelve
closely-printed pages in length, and reading it takes about
the time devoted to the average short story. A curiosity,
rather than an important literary find, it is still probably
one of the earliest Canadian examples of science fiction; is
not listed in either Bleiler or Day, so is probably unknown
to fantasy and science fiction collectors; and a note with
reference to it is important for my Checklist.

Imaginary Biographies; London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd,
(1936) 105 p.

Each of these fictional biographies was prepared by a writer familiar with the historical periods during which the events occurred but whose main character was unknown generally.

The authors were Arthur Bryant, T. R. Glover, Helen Simpson, Hilaire Belloc, Michael Oakeshott, James Agate and C. P. Snow.

Of particular interest to me were the Person from Porlock who interrupted Coleridge when he was composing Kubla Khan, and the housemaid who burnt the first volume manuscript of Carlyle's French Revolution. Others relate to war and art matters.

Although of little intrinsic importance, these items do illustrate how it is possible to base stories on single events.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 31, 1998

3246 Portage Avenue
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CELEBRATING
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Locker Room Ballads; New York, Ace Books (#48800),
(1967, 1968, Harry Morgan), (Preface, 1967, Michael Green),
Selected from Sphere Books Ltd., Rugby Songs and More Rugby
Songs 128p.

Based on sexual and scatological themes, these are the kind of joking songs associated with the lewder aspects of sexual activities. It is curious that these themes seem to occupy a more important source of ribaldry than those which are associated with the game itself.

Sex is an important part of the life of human beings, and it is unfortunate that the secrecy surrounding it has given rise to evil and degrading exploitation of a function which is necessary, and indeed essential to the survival of the race.

These jeering songs do not seem ever to emphasise the joyful and loving nature of sexual activity. It is no wonder that such mildly pornographic publications are viewed as mainly disgraceful.

London, Ernest Benn Limited (1932)

Contents

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Next Generation | J. D. Beresford 5-160p |
| 2. Incredible Tale | Naomi Royde-Smith 5-160p. |
| 3. Love Is a Flame | Mrs. Belloc Lowndes 5-159p. |

These are short novels, probably originally sold in paperback at Ninepence each, and bound together to sell the remainders.

My notes are made under each separate title.

Anonymous

The Love Toy; New York & Chicago, Diversey Publishing Corporation (1949), (1925, Macaulay) 154p.

This is a superficial novel of a girl who married a talentless artist, and was lured away from him by a ladies' man artist who got her to pose for his nude paintings. They have the favor of an art collector Peter Remsen, who loves the model, but when his favor is withdrawn, Jeffery soon has to sell his furniture in order to live. Jeffery falls in love with another woman who means more than flesh to him, so the girl who narrates this story in the first person takes to drink and wild parties.

Learning that Remsen has ruined him, Jeffery asks his assistance, which is granted if he will leave Georgia. Jeffery Clavering agrees, and Georgia refuses Remsen, who is a friend of her husband Toby and is seeking him. Almost on the verge of accepting the advances of an old roue Doug Muir, Georgia draws back, but finds herself without experience and forced to work at menial tasks for a pittance. While so engaged she finds her husband Toby, mentally and physically ill, painting, and sketching for quarters, and that his despair at her loss has awakened his artistic merit and enabled him to produce masterpieces. She takes these to his former art dealer but it is too late: Toby dies of consumption. Since only Remsen is left of all the men she knows, she takes him, realizing that his steadfast love and giant protectiveness is what she had always wanted.

This superficial story and inadequate character-study is simply a waste of time. Even though told in the present tense, there is no sense of immediacy or reality.

Anonymous

The Merry Widow: A Novel, founded on Franz Lehar's Viennese Opera; Illustrated from the photoplay starring John Gilbert and Mae Murray; New York, A. L. Burt Company (1909, G. W. Dillingham Company) 331p.

Having watched on TV the recent re-make of this operetta, I was curious to see how closely it followed the movie which I had seen many years ago. This novel indicates that very few features of the movie were used.

The novel has Prince Danilo, enamored of a peasant girl, promising her marriage which, for reasons of state, his uncle and other statesmen refused to permit. Jilted, Sonia accepts the offer of marriage from the President of the Board of directors of the bank whose money, unknown to him, had been taken by the superintendent of the vault, son of the manager of the bank, and from him robbed by a band of gypsies.

Danilo and Sonia play at cross-purposes with each other throughout the novel. The financier dies of a heart attack in the bank vault when he is just about to learn of the robbery; Danilo's revolver is discovered, a threat of murder against him; and the banker's son, as villain, pursues Sonia, of whom he is enamored so much that he had confessed to her his robbery of the bank.

Comedy is provided by three frenchmen who sue for Sonia's hand, though they really want her fortune.

This is simply a light romantic novel, with little music mention excepting at Maxim's, and with none of the songs of the operetta reproduced or mentioned. Since the music is the main thing about the operetta, the novel has no importance, but is reasonably well-written and interesting. Sonia as a peasant girl does not act in character as the merry widow, a witty and intelligent member of society in Paris; and Danilo acts inconsistently as a prince of a balkan country who loves but is swayed too easily.

This book is of no importance.

The Midnight Journey and Other Tales (Reprinted from Chambers's Journal); London and Edinburgh, W. & R. Chambers 1889; Frontispiece 224p.

Contents.

1. The Midnight Journey	Leitch Ritchie	9
2. Benito, the Horse-Tamer	Anonymous	23
3. The 'Lost Portrait	Mrs. Crowe	35
4. A Story of Apsley House	Anonymous	56
5. The 'Dancing-Girl of India	Anonymous	62
6. The Chase	Anonymous	80
7. The Dictator	Anonymous	87
8. The Convict's Daughter	Anonymous	109
9. A Night at Home	Leitch Ritchie	113
10. The Story of Elisabetta Sirani	Anonymous	127
11. The Jaguar-Hunter	Anonymous	143
12. The Old Maid from Principle	Anonymous	151
13. The Fall of the Janizaries	Anonymous	170
14. The Armenian Leper	Anonymous	190
15. The Prince	Anonymous	206
16. Maria La Fantesca	Anonymous	220

These are all reasonably well-written stories, sketches, short apparent biographies and historical incidents, but the closest to fantasy are (1) and (9). (7) is excellent as the portrayal of "absolute power corrupts absolutely". (15) is a puzzling portrayal of an impostor, and may be historical.

I would term this an average collection.

New York, Midwood Enterprises, Inc. (#35-270), (1969,
authors) 236p.

Contents

1. Ladies' Choice	Gil Johns	5
2. Sweet Sickness	Mark Reading	125

Brent Richard is collecting these paperbacks, so I bought this one for him.

These two short novels were possibly written by the same author, their styles are so similar. The stories are of no importance, since the emphasis is on descriptions of sexual encounters among the characters, who appear to dislike each other but are sexually attracted and form relationships which deteriorate because they have no other reason for existing.

These stories are curiously ambivalent: the fascination of sex and its enjoyment are offset by the disgust felt for the persons involved because of the intimacy, and the violation of moral standards and monogamous behaviour. These are soft-core pornography, sensational, but worthless.

Anonymous

Jokes & Cartoons

Over Sixteen; Illustrated; Grayson Publishing Corp.,
(1951) 176p.

Both the cartoons and the jokes are humorous, and this book is worthwhile, above average of its kind. I believe I have kept a volume which was published subsequent to this, and that there may be a long series of these books.

Anonymous

Over Sixteen Goes A-Broad (7th Volume); Grayson, Book-
Allan Corp. (1960); Illustrated 176p.

This is a "sophisticated" joke book with cartoon illustrations. There are some fairly good items included, but nothing of exceptional merit. It will provide a couple of hours of light amusement.

The Pearl: A Journal of Facetive and Voluptuous Reading; New York, Ballantine Books, 3rd ptg, May, 1976, (1968, Grove Press, Inc. 643p.

This volume contains eighteen issues of the magazine reprinted in full. From July 1879 to December, 1880, this magazine appears to have been issued, but its repetitious contents must have bored its readers.

There is nothing of value in this book.

The Pocket Book of Boners: An Omnibus of Schoolboy Howlers and Unconscious Humour; Illustrated by Dr. Seuss; New York, Pocket Books (#6088); October, 1961 142p.

There are some excellent laughs to be derived from the reading of this book, and a curious effect it had on me was to inhibit my own ability to answer the questions. In fact, I do not know the answers to several of the questions which were obviously asked.

This book is a good one to have if conversation lags in a group of people.

Stories by Foreign Authors: German; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901; (1898, Publishers); Portrait 240p.

Contents

1. The Fury	Paul Heyse	11
2. The Philosopher's Pendulum	Rudolph Lindau	45
3. The Bookbinder of Hort	L.von Sacher-Masoch	91
4. The Egyptian Fire-Eater	Rudolph Baumbach	111
5. The Cremona Violin	E.T.W. Hoffmann	125*
6. Adventures of a New Year's Eve	Heinrich Zschokke	167

(1) is reprinted in The World's 100 Best Short Stories and is the story of a man-hater who falls in love. (2) is the story of a man who dies of undeclared love. (3) tells of a bookbinder who reads the books he binds. (4) A boy is enamored of circus life and runs away to enter it. (5) is a classic weird tale. (6) tells of a gardener who chances to a prince's clothes for a masked ball and straightens out the Prince's affairs during the masquerade, and is rewarded financially so he can marry his girl.

The first two and (5) are the important stories.

Anonymous

Jennifer: Book Eleven; New York, Dell Publishing Inc. (#4197), (November, 1983), (Richard Gallen & Co Inc.) 191p.

This appears to be the latest of a series of paperbacks detailing the sexual exploits of the title character, whose sole purpose in life appears to be the satisfaction of her erotic desires. Her principal woman friend is a beautiful negress, with whom and with her own two irresistible lovers Jennifer finally engages in a ménage à quatre.

Apart from its suggestive effects, this novel has no literary or practical merit.

The Centennail Anniversary, continued:

Dr. Peter Gordon White, preaching at the morning service, reminded us of the Third World countries' plea for Justice for their people. Dr. D. Bruce Johnson, in the evening, urged us to build on our heritage and make it "More Than A Memory". Contributions of the Choir at both services were outstanding, and a special vote of thanks goes to our Director of Music, Stuart McVey, for his special contributions, both personally, and in his leadership of the Choir. Former Members of the Choir and other Members of the Congregation helped to make a mass choir for the evening service. Dignitaries from other churches, including Archbishop Exner of the Roman Catholic Church and Archbishop Jones of the Anglican Church, helped to add to the dignity of the evening service.

Many other Members of the Congregation assisted to make this a memorable weekend. Ainsworth Smith, who arranged for the shuttle bus from the Kinsmen, all those who scrubbed and polished the church to help it look its best, the former Ministers who attended our celebrations, Her Honour, Pearl McGonigal, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, who read a lesson at the evening service and the Rev. Arthur Griffin, Minister in Mission, B.C. and a former Y.P.U Member at our church, who lead the congregational prayer and read a lesson at the morning service, Mrs. Thelma Fast, Chairman of Presbytery and Mrs. Mary Rance, Chairman of Conference, who participated, and all others who helped to make this a very special week-end, are to be thanked.

Financially, we thank Lois Wells for giving freely of her time to calculate our receipts and expenditures. A final financial reporting will be attached elsewhere, but as of January 7 we appeared to have a balance of receipts over expenditures of \$1,340.09. We are grateful to all those whose special donations as well as active support made this favorable balance possible. It has been a recommendation of the Centennial Committee that the balance, if possible, be used to purchase a new and improved Xerox machine for the Church Office, as this is needed very badly.

I wish to thank all Members of this Committee who helped to make the last year an enjoyable and memorable experience. My hope is that the Centennial Celebrations have helped to give our Members a new understanding of their heritage, a new pride in their Church and in their Congregation. I hope that we may build on this foundation in the year ahead.

Helen Norrie, Chairman,
Centennial Anniversary Committee.

Anonymous

Lurking Shadows of Death: Authentic Police Cases;
Every Story True; Toronto, Superior Publishers Ltd., no
date, paperback 128p.

These are mainly murder mysteries, and straightforward narratives of police work. One of the longest, Montreal Slay-Ride, is about some crooks who robbed a butcher-shop of some meat, then fled in a sleigh, killed ~~two~~ one policeman who tried to stop them, and seriously wounded another. This took place in 1914, and apparently involved most of the city before the crooks were all caught.

Others took place mainly in California, most are senseless and gruesome, and while interesting, are not in my field of research.

Anonymous

Maria Marten, or, The Murder in the Red Barn; London,
C. Arthur Pearson Limited, no date; double-columned 108p.

I found it interesting to compare this novelization of the case whose factual basis is given in The True Story of Maria Marten by Dorothy Gibbs and Herbert Maltby.

Although told from the author-omniscient point of view and mainly from Corder's, this novel introduces an earlier liaison of Corder's with a gipsy girl whom he abandoned after ruining her, having her brother incarcerated when he tried to avenge his sister, and incurring the curse of hanging by the gipsy queen mother of the two victims.

The gipsy element is not mentioned in the factual book, and whether it is entirely imaginary or the result of independent inquiry into Corder's antecedents I cannot say.

Maria's stepmother is alleged to have possessed second sight, and the gipsy queen had occult powers used often and naturally, including various occult sciences. Additional fantasy elements are introduced by Corder's being haunted by the ghost or spirit of Maria, several incidents forming an influence on his ultimate breakdown and conviction. This qualifies the book as a fantasy novel, independently of its departures from the factual aspects of the case.

This novel names Corder's wife as Kathleen Moore, who truly loved him and was loyal to the end. Many incidents of the actual case are passed over without mention to give this novel a short version. Although superficial, it is a readable novel.

Anonymous

Morgyn the Mighty: The Strongest man in the world, from the famous boys' paper "The Rover"; London, Glasgow, Manchester, Dundee, D. C. Thomason & Co., Ltd. and John Leng & Co., Ltd., no date; illustrated by Dudley D. Watkins 236p.

About 17 years old, Morgyn has been brought up on a tropical island in the Indian Ocean by a 60 year old man Adam. Adam has taught Morgyn muscle and breath control, and his physical and mental development are superb.

The book consists of series of adventures, when Morgyn defeats tropical wild beasts, including giant vampire bats, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, a gorilla, head-hunting savages, sharks, an octopus, and every other conceivable danger, including a booby-trapped treasure cave. A take-off on the Tarzan theme, Morgyn refuses to supplant a circus strongman, and remains with Adam, content with the environment he knows.

This is a juvenile adventure story, with no depth of action, plot or theme. Mungo the elephant, who is described as a rogue, obeys Morgyn as Tanor did Tarzan. As in many of the Tarzan books, the fantasy element is remote.

Modern Classics from the "Atlantic Monthly"; Philadelphia, Henry T. Coates & Co. (Ticknor and Fields, 1865) (has Winston on base of spine) 447p.

Contents

1. My Double; and How He Undid Me	Edward Everett Hale	1
2. The Diamond Lens	Fitz James O'Brien	21*
3. Life in the Iron-Mills	Miss R. B. Harding	50
4. The Pursuit of Knowledge Under Difficulties	Gail Hamilton	93
5. A Raft That No Man Made	Robert T. S. Lowell	147
6. Why Thomas Was Discharged	George Arnold	162
7. Victor and Jacqueline	Miss Caroline Chesebrough	180
8. Elkanah Brewster's Temptation	Charles Nordhoff	248
9. The Queen of the Red Chessmen	Miss Lucretia P. Hale	271*
10. Miss Lucinda	Miss Rose Terry	299
11. The Denslow Palace	J. D. Whelpley	336*
12. Friend Eli's Daughter	Bayard Taylor	367
13. A Half-Life and Half a Life	Miss E. H. Appleton	398

#2 has been so often reprinted that it is considered a classic science fiction story, and it may have been the inspiration for Ray Cummings' "The Girl in the Golden Atom". #9 is a story of chessmen come to life, the red queen being thought insane by a doctor and befriended in his home, having no human history but the fighting characteristics of chess. It is light fantasy. #11 tells of a fake nobleman, a Duke who is accompanied by his valet, the latter being cast as a familiar. The Duke has mesmeric or hypnotic powers, and is able to make people see illusions. This narrative is spoiled by having the narrator conclude it as having been a vision or dream.

Of the other stories, probably #3 a Jack Londonish tale; and #12 a story of Quaker life, are best. #1 is a satire on the time professional people (in this case a minister) have to spend on empty social functions; #4 is a light romance; #5 is a story of a man cast adrift on an ice-floe; #6 is another light romance; #7 tells of a convinced protestant who abjures his beliefs when threatened with torture; #8 is a very good story about an artist who forgoes his art in favor of duty, but is rewarded by making his duty into art; #10 is the story of the late romance of a spinster and a French teacher; and #13 is the tale of an aborted romance, leaving the reader to suppose that the girl narrator has made up her mind to accept celibacy instead of a second suitor.

These stories are all well told, but #5 has too much local color of speech, and #7 would have been improved by some excisions to make it move faster.

My Religion; London, Hutchinson & Co. (n.d.;ca.1925) 140p.

Apparently this is a summary of inquiries published in the Daily News and it incorporates the testimonies of famous people but concentrates on Arnold Bennett, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the replies from many bishops.

Only Compton Mackenzie appeared satisfied with his Catholic Church as it was; all the others qualified their answers with an acknowledgment that science had shaken their early church training and that they had sought beyond orthodox creeds. All gave credit to Jesus's moral teaching, but few agreed with theological dogma.

The bishops replying to the testimonies supported their view that Christianity had improved the world and that without the church there could be no continuity of teaching.

J. D. Beresford and Hugh Walpole were the main others whose testimonies interested me, but Oppenheim was thoughtful.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 3, 1998

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CELEBRATING
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"New Lives for Old"

London, Gollancz (1933) 399 pp

This is a sociological science fiction novel portraying the effects of a discovery that life may be extended for a further thirty-five years, re-activating the sexual powers of men but sterilizing women.

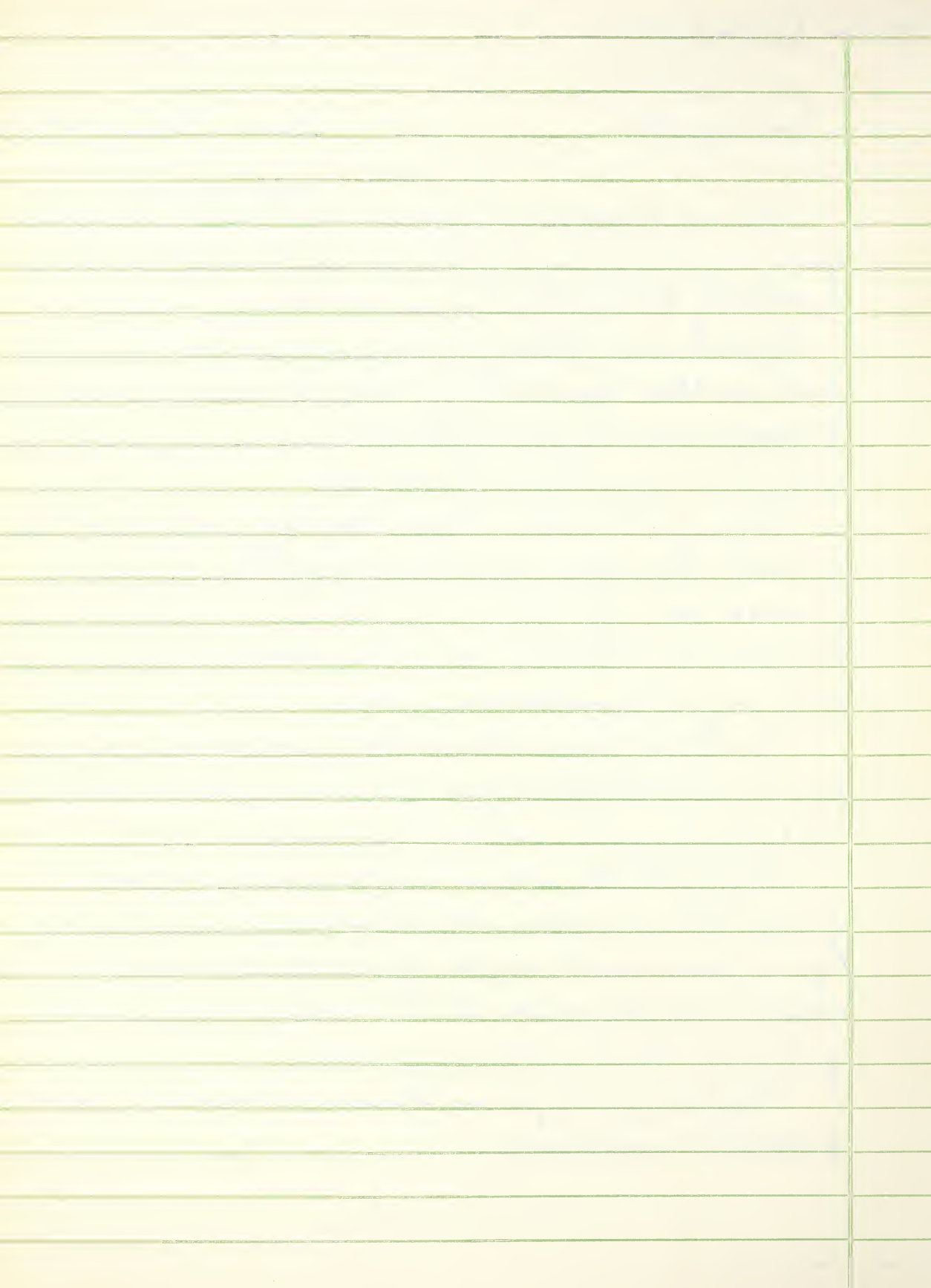
By far the most interesting and successful part of the novel is the first, sub-titled "Before the Change". In this the sociological implications of biophysical discovery are set forth clearly and concisely, and the human reactions are graphically and honestly stated.

The principal characters are Professor Billy Pilgrim, his friend Varden a novelist, Alison Byrne who was loved by both ^{and} Callan the professor's assistant who later surpassed him as a scientist. There are interesting subordinate characters, many well-drawn, whose actions illustrate individual reactions to the new life made possible by rejuvenation.

"The Old Grow Young" is the sub-title of part 2 in which the frank pursuit of sexual satisfaction by the rejuvenated is emphasized almost to the extent of excluding from consideration any other effect.

"The Young Grow Old" is the concluding third section of the book and describes Alison and Callan in their normal old age in company with Pilgrim and Varden near the end of their rejuvenated life. Since rejuvenation is too costly to be universally available, there is inevitably a revolution and the government of Britain is overthrown in gas warfare.

Though falling short of greatness, either as a novel or as science fiction, the book deserves a careful reading.



Last night I injured my back. After a night of intermittent sleep and wakefulness, it was near-torture to move from bed, but unbearable to stay there. My thoughts were occupied with the possibility of permanent disability.

After breakfast I finished up what work I had brought from the office, concluding all thought of that phase of life.

My collection of books might well occupy me for the rest of my days, so I immediately decided to read one which is "wanted" by book brokers, and for which I expect to be able to get \$5.00. And because, apart from the sale of my books, I have no means of earning a living, I must note carefully all I find of interest and value in my reading. Possibly I can write of these things so that others may use my gleanings, and be willing to pay something to support me through my future disability.

"New Lives for Old" published by Gollancz in London, 1933, did not disclose the author. Bleiler's "The Checklist of Fantastic Literature", Shasta, Chicago, 1948, indicates the author to be Charles P. Snow, of whom I know nothing. On television I have seen his "The New Men" dramatized, and was favorably impressed.

In the first chapter, Professor Billy Pilgrim and his assistant Callan have discovered how to make the male collophage, or hormone, which will mean that rejuvenation will be possible, and man's life-span increased to 100 years or more. The method reminds me of these stories: "The Coming of the Lcc", by G. Peyton Hertenbaker; "The Gland Stealers" by Ditham Bayton; and by Philip K. Dick.

These notes will probably be revised, but I am setting down anything I find of particular interest. Prof. Pilgrim says (p. 15): "I should now think of writing down all the casual ideas which float in and out of my head —

and they're just the things one does forget." How true! I once had an idea as apparently original and startling that I wished to tell my parents & author - A. M. M. - just, in case he might build a novel around it. I was told that Mr. M. was travelling in Europe at the time and that my letter would be shown him on his return to New York. I never heard from him - and I've forgotten the idea.

I suppose Virginia's aim in life were three: marriage, riches, and the love of women. His marriage has not been successful, and for this in later years he had blamed his own lack of art - knowledge. A ten-year adulterous liaison had been almost satisfactory; apart from their important episodes, his relations with women had been brief and negligible. Of money and riches he had sufficient for his requirements, but no substantial success until this discovery at age 65.

I have been too deeply interested by the first part of this novel to stop noting long enough to record my thoughts. This is truly a science fiction novel which deserves a place among the best. The sociological implications of biological discovery are set forth clearly and convincingly, and the human reactions are graphically and honestly stated. As a novel, it is masterwork, as science fiction it is competent. I am anticipating, I know, but I think the first two parts of the book will build the premise of the first.

Having read the second part of this novel, I cannot conceal my disappointment over its failure to live up to the first. The frank emphasis given to the actual motivation of the characters, their complete devotion to the making of actual satisfaction at the cost of any other values, are disturbing and unsettling, especially to a materialist. He must all credit the power of actual attraction, but must it warp all activity to the extent indicated here? The third and final part of the novel fails to improve it. Its final suggestion that our ultimate motive is self-preservation does not merit its publication.

Anonymous

Our Lady's Tumbler: A Twelfth Century Legend; Transcribed from the French by Rev. P. H. Wicksteed; London & Toronto, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. (1930); Illustrated by Roberta F. C. Waudby 28p.

A minstrel dancer, becoming weary of the world, devoted himself to holy orders but could think of no way to show his devotion to the Holy Mother except by dancing and tumbling in a secluded cell. Other monks knew prayers and other signs by which to convey their worship.

Perfecting himself, he was observed by another monk, who approved and reported him to the Abbot. The latter made an inspection and observed angels attending benignly over the dancer, who was unconscious of their presence. The Abbot was glad to admit the dancer to the order, and later witnessed the Angels present at the dancer's deathbed.

This is a simple legend, well told.

Anonymous (Darby and Joan)

Our Unseen Guest; New York and London, Harper & Brothers
(February, 1920, Publishers) 320p.

By Darby & Joan; Introduction by Stewart Edward White; Los
Angeles, California, Borden Publishing Company, 1947 (1943,
Publishers); 6-page Introduction unpaginated; original 320p.

Having read a couple of books by White I respected him as a
courageous and capable writer and so I accumulated his books as
he started detailing messages from his dead wife.

I was surprised to learn that he had not read Our Unseen Guest
until after he and Betty had, like Darby & Joan, experimented with
an ouija board. This important philosophical system conveyed by
an identified soldier encouraged White to follow its lead. During
the Darby & Joan era they started with the ouija board, changed
to automatic writing, then directly to the typewriter in recording
the messages.

By chance buying a copy of The Seven Purposes by Margaret
Cameron, they wrote to her and were put in touch with a woman wri-
ter who was seeking contact with her dead husband. At first think-
ing that Stephen was a secondary character derived from their good
teamwork, Darby, the author, and Joan the medium concluded that
Stephen was the spirit of his earthly self as he claimed to be.

Although I read the book carefully, I admit that I failed to
understand Stephen's philosophy, even though Darby was obviously
familiar with psychic phenomena literature. Having read five books
by James Hyslop which traced his acceptance of spiritualism as an
academic, I am eager to read eight books by White tracing his work
with the spirit of his wife, so my notes for awhile will deal with
those books. I respect both Darby and White as writers.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 26, 1999

Note: On the second page of his introduction, White makes a few
mistakes. For instance, he spells Crookes as Crooks, and must
have intended Holmes to be Home, the famous medium. I do not
speculate why these errors were made; perhaps he was under a
deadline from the publisher.

Path into the Unknown: The Best Soviet S F; Science
Fiction Club/MacGibbon & Kee (1968), (1966) 191p.

Contents

1. The Conflict	Ilya Varshavsky	7
2. Robby	Ilya Varshavsky	11
3. Meeting My Brother	Vladislav Krapivin	21
4. A Day of Wrath	Sever Gansovsky	57
5. An Emergency Case	Arkady & Boris Strugatsky	89
6. Wanderers and Travellers	Arkady Strugatsky	109
7. The Boy	G. Gor	123
8. The Purple Mummy	Anatoly Dneprov	163

The first two of these stories involve robots. (3) is the story of space travellers returning to Earth and wanting to comply with the desire of a boy to meet them. (4) Conflict between humans and an alien, animal-like race. (5) Space flies invade a space ship, and appear indestructible; reminiscent of "Death from the Stars". (6) A biologist marking septopods is forced to wonder at the intelligences which are permitted by nature to survive, and the criteria which may be required. (7) The double of a prehistoric alien startles with his comprehensive knowledge his teacher and fellow-pupils in school. (8) An anti-matter duplicate of a living woman reveals an apparently fatal disease which threatens the wife of the narrator.

There is no startling originality about any of these tales and I do not consider them to be above average. The paperback edition, which I cannot presently find, is said to be edited, or has an introduction by, Judith Merrill.

New York, Dell Publishing Co., Inc. (#6862), (November, 1968), (1968, Merril, 1966, MacGibbon & Kee) 189p.

Having located this paperback, I read only the introduction. Judy says this is the first anthology of Soviet science fiction, and probably only the sixth book translated from the Russian in the field. She adds that it is 20 years since her own first science fiction story was written, and marks a change in the direction of Soviet science fiction like that in the U.S., changing from the physical to the human sciences. Her autobiographical remarks are of interest.

The Post Victorians, with an Introduction by the Very
Reverend W. R. Inge; London, Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd.,
1933; (1933 648p.

This symposium is a sequel to The Great Victorians, and
deserves to be kept for reference.

Of the subjects, I am interested in Lord Balfour, William
Bateson, Gertrude Bell, Arnold Bennett, Lord Birkenhead, Joseph
Conrad, John Galsworthy, Lord Haldane, Keir Hardie, Oliver Heavi-
side, W. H. Hudson, David Herbert Lawrence, Sir Edward Marshall-
Hall, George Moore, Lord Northcliffe, Mrs. Pankhurst, Lytton Stra-
chey, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, Arthur Bingham Walkley, and James
White.

Of the authors, W. R. Inge, Robert Lynd, F. Tennyson Jesse,
Hugh Walpole, Henry W. Nevinson, Shane Leslie, Sir Ian Hamilton,
R. L. Megroz, Humbert Wolfe, Rebecca West, R. C. Sherriff, Ivor
Brown, Bonamy Dobree, Marguerite Steen.

Keir Hardie and Mrs. Pankhurst are important for trying to
improve life for labor or women.

James White was a promoter in high finance who set a pattern
for later "big operators".

Most of the authors are of personal interest.

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Prince of Darkness: Witchcult/Satanism/Sorcery/Lycanthropy; London, John Westhouse (Publishers) Ltd.; Illustrated (June, 1946) 250p.

Contents

Witchcult

1. The Covens	Gerald Verner and Montague Summers	11a
2. Witch Trials	Cotton Mather	22a

Satanism

1. The Black Mass	Montague Summers	43a
2. The Earlier Service	Margaret Irwin	57
3. Ancient Sorceries	Algernon Blackwood	79
4. The Witch Wood	John Buchan	146

Sorcery

1. The Birth of Sorcery	Sax Rohmer	173a
2. The Cyprian Cat	Dorothy L. Sayers	187
3. The Peace of Mowsle Barton	Saki	205

Lycanthropy

1. The Were Wolf	Montague Summers	217a
2. The Tomb of Sarah	F. G. Loring	232

(a) designates factual material.

I have, or have read, the factual material in other books, but I read the two articles under Witchcult, and the one under Satanism.

I have or have read all the stories except the last one, so read it from this volume. It is a traditional werewolf story, well-written and interesting.

This is a good, representative factual and fictional presentation of the background material for anyone interested in the subjects covered, but I think the editor, who I assume to be Gerald Verner, has not read sufficiently to be aware that there are many factual accounts indicating the existence of the supernatural in the phenomena attributed to witchcraft.

Anonymous (Editor)

Anthology.

Psychotherapeutics; Boston, Richard G. Badger (1909 & 1912,
Publishers 186p.

This symposium by nine authorities, among them Morton Prince and Boris Sidis, has two chapters devoted to hypnotism and much incidental mention of the subject in other articles.

For an early survey of the subject, this book contains valuable material and should be retained for reference. Case histories are enlightening.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 18, 2004

Anonymous (Frederick S.)

Recollections of a Society Clairvoyant; London, G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., 1911 (Third Edition, February, 1911 207p.

Claiming his grandmother to have been a mistress of Napoleon, his mother to have been abandoned by her younger husband who married bigamously in Paris, and to have experienced clairvoyant, predictive, and death-warning events from the age of 8, S. determined to make his livelihood as a clairvoyant, based in London, but travelling in America, in Europe, and to European countries on specific missions for influential or wealthy people.

Toward the end of the book he describes contacts with royalties in Austria, Russia, Belgium and elsewhere. He is denunciatory of the sins of wealthy and fashionable society in London and elsewhere, and most of the stories he tells are of amorous intrigues, some involving the theft of very valuable objects, unrecoverable in at least one instance because of fear of blackmail.

Few names are given in the early part of the book, and I suspect that the author's early career was not above suspicion or scandal. He mentions no family apart from his ancestors for whom he claims nobility and French nationality.

This is more a gossip book of society life than any attempt to explain his psychic powers, or even to claim for them more than an expertise on the basis of which he made his livelihood. Many of the letters he reproduces seem to support his claim to have been of service; but there is no proof of their being genuine.

No student of psychic phenomena need bother with this book, excepting insofar as it supports the view that people with money resorted to the use of psychics to spy on others, to locate lost articles, or to pry into the future.

Anonymous

Red Cloud Speaks; London, Psychic Book Club, 1938 150p.

Red Cloud is the Guide communicating through the medium Estelle Roberts, whose autobiography Forty Years a Medium (London, Herbert Jenkins, 1959) impressed me favorably.

The messages provided in this book support the general philosophy of spiritualism, and also some of the teachings of Edgar Cayce. Red Cloud insists that this philosophy should be called Christianity rather than spiritualism because it renews the original Bible teachings and is supported by the phenomena reported in the Bible rather than the materialistic modern church dogmas which do not emphasise the immortality of the soul.

Red Cloud insists that the soul is immortal; that every thought is preserved, everything existing eternally; death changes nothing but the casting off of the temporary shell through which the soul is manifested. The life of the soul continues without any drastic change; there is continuing growth and progress.

Claiming an age of thousands of years and experience to back up his teachings, Red Cloud says that our view of time is due to our conscious sense limitations. He insists that we have free will and are responsible for the state in which our life after death places us.

He admits, however, that man-made laws must be obeyed and that temporal customs must often govern during the life on earth. He identifies mediums with witches of former days and says they would then not have been permitted to survive.

Laymen as intelligent as Doyle, Lodge, Wallace, and Hyslop have adopted this philosophy; it is altruistic and sensible; but like all other philosophies, remains unproven.

Anonymous

Revelations of a Spirit Medium. Facsimile Edition, with Notes, Bibliography, Glossary and Index; By Harry Price, F.R.N.S., and Eric J. Dingwall, M.A.; London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1922; Illustrated; lxiv plus 327p.

Originally published in St. Paul, Minn. by Farrington & Co., 1891, most copies and the plates were destroyed by mediums or spiritualists because of the fraudulent methods of producing phenoemena being so plainly exposed.

The author tells how he was gradually led to become a fraudulent medium, his family being spiritualists, and he respecting their religion. For 20 years he practised as a medium, and says he obtained information from others and in all his career never met a medium who was not fraudulent.

Carrington probably reproduces all the passages of importance from this book, but it is clearly written by one who obviously developed many tricks of his own.

This is an important book, and the bibliography is a valuable one.

Anonymous

The Secrets of Clairvoyance!! and How to Become an Operator
Mesmerism and Psychology, and How to Become a Mesmerizer and Psychologist...; Baltimore, Maryland, I. & M. Ottenheimer, no date
95p.

The small print makes this a difficult book to read, and the text is disorganized and composed of reprinted material to a large extent, without adequate reference to sources.

However, there is a very good summary of Swedenborg's views and many of the cases are different from those in other books and some are important. Unless I can locate the material in original books, this should be retained for reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 16, 2000

Anonymous (Doyle)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Centenary, 1859-1959; London,
John Murray, (1959); Illustrated 137p.

A long biographical introduction to this volume by P. Weil-Nordon, M.A. (who I believe is the author of the later biography as by Pierre Nordon) summarizes the main events in Doyle's career, and the illustrations and quotations which make up the balance of the volume do much to emphasise the respect in which he is held as a writer and as a citizen of the world.

A few years ago I checked the value of this book at the Centennial Library, and saw it listed at \$325.00.

This is a fascinating volume for anyone who likes or studies Doyle and his works, and the photographs of first editions of his books, although none of the 3-volume firsts are shown, are helpful in identifying attractive editions.

A lot of the text is repeated in the various biographies of Doyle, but this book is impressive for its 130 illustrations and as a monument to the author.

Anonymous (See John Galt)

The Spaewife: A Tale of the Scottish Chronicles; Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1823; 3 vol. (312,318,315 p.)

& G. & W. B. Whittaker, London.

The copy lent me was from the University of Calgary Library PR4708, G2S62;

This is primarily a historical novel, telling of the Regent Murdoch of Albany following his father's rule in Scotland but being an easy-going man, finally realizing that his three sons were out-of-hand, arranging to have King James released from prison in England to return to Scotland and rule. James tried and executed Murdoch and two of his sons, and passed sentence of death on the third; brought the unruly scottish lairds under control, and reinstated law and order, but was finally assassinated by Robert Graeme.

The spaewife, Anniple of Dunblane, prophesied the future course of history, but in such wise that although her prophecies were literally fulfilled, none of the people affected could have divined exactly how the prophecies would turn out.

Anniple is portrayed as a "natural": a simpleton who was well-known to have supernormal power, especially for prophecy and so-called second-sight. Her appearance throughout the story at crucial moments, with her warnings and admonitions, suggests the fatality of existence. The author is careful to give instances of prophecy through one of the characters, to support the importance he attributes to Anniple, but makes no attempt to explain her preternatural faculty, accepting it as a factual one.

Aside from this character, the book has no claim to be a fantasy; and if psychic phenomena become incorporated in the accepted body of scientific knowledge, this would remove the entire book from that category.

Anonymous

A Spirit of Joy: Notes from an Exhibition of Books, Periodicals and Ephemera printed at the Curwen Press during its Heyday 1916-1956; Edmonton, University of Alberta, 1990; Illustrated Bibliography 58p.

This is a collaborative production of the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library to describe its collection of this artistic publisher's history and products.

This book is itself an artistic production and should attract anyone interested in the printing trade to view the collection.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 1, 1998

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Stories by English Authors: Ireland; New York, Charles
Scribner's Sons, 1902 (1896, Publishers); Portrait 180p.

Contents

1. The Gridiron	Samuel Lover	9
2. The Emergency Men	George H. Jessop	23*
3. A Lost Recruit	Jane Barlow	65
4. The Rival Dreamers	John Banim	93*
5. Neal Malone	William Carleton	123
6. The Banshee	Anonymous	159*

(1) and (5) are humorous; (2) is the story of an American visiting an Irish family during a boycott of them by villagers (3) is a regional tale of a youth dying before he can join the armed forces; (4) a poor man and his rascally uncle have experiences of dreams which reveal riches; (6) outlines the belief in banshees and tells the story of one family experiencing its visitations, and is quite important with reference to the phenomenon.

Stories by Foreign Authors: Italian; Frontispiece portrait; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901 168p.

Contents

1. A Great Day	Edmondo de Amicis	11
2. Pereat Rochus	Antonio Fogazzaro	35
3. San Pantaleone	Gabriele d'Annunzio	89
4. It Snows	Enrico Castelnuovo	109
5. College Friends	Edmondo de Amicis	135A

(1) a palatable untruth is more acceptable than an unpopular truth; (2) a moronic priest has difficulty dealing with the fact of his servant's liason with a rascal; (3) a war of one community with another; (4) a daughter succeeds in foiling a widow's attempt to captivate her father; (5) personal reminiscences.

None of these has sufficient interest to warrant my re-reading them.

Donated to Fleet Street

Anonymous (See De Mille, James)

A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder; New York, Harper, 1888; ill. by Gilbert Gaul 291pp.

Adam More and the second mate of the ship Trevelyan in 1843 left the ship near Desolation Island in a small boat; a snowstorm and bad current prevented them from reaching the ship before it sailed; and the current carried them south into a region within the earth. Here they encountered a race of cannibals who lured Agnew to his death. More escaped in the boat and was rescued by people who resembled the lost tribes of Israel; small of stature, dark, who shunned the sun or light and sought darkness.

More fell in love with a girl who was apparently of a different people, but treated as if she were a queen. He learned, however, that she was actually a victim and prisoner; and that the Kosekin's society was based on self-deprecation: they sought poverty instead of wealth, the welfare of others instead of their own, and death instead of life. Their goals ended, however, in cannibalism; and their constant search of honor for others in their view constituted danger and horror to people of a different creed.

In this interior country, prehistoric animals and birds continued to exist; the people rode on birds and pterodactyls; battled with sea monsters and land beasts to a glorious death; and were ruled by a council of paupers living in squalor and misery as their highest good.

This is a lost race adventure story, with social satire. As an interior earth story, it is fair.

"Literary History of Canada" contains a detailed appraisal of the book's place in Canadian fiction.

(Toronto/Montreal, McClelland and Stewart Limited (New Canadian Library #68); Introduction: R. Watters (1969) 253p.)

I have offered this copy to Regine Haensel.

Strange Secrets; Illustrated; London, Chatto & Windus,
1902 (New Edition) 336p.

Contents

1. The Secret of Swalecliffe Castle	F. Milford	1*
2. The Secret of the Mine	Fred. Talbot	36
3. The Secret of Calverley Court	Gertrude Parsons	74
4. The Secret of Cousin Geoffrey's Chamber	Hon Mrs. Henry Clifford	108*
5. The Secret of Goresthorpe Grange	A. Conan Doyle	134*
6. The Box with the Iron Clamps	Florence Marryat	154
7. The Veiled Portrait	James Grant	190*
8. The Spectre Hand	James Grant	203*
9. The Ghost of Lawford Hall	Walter Thornbury	217
10. A Coachful of Ghosts	Eleanor C. Price	229*
11. George Venn and the Ghost	Dutton Cook	254
12. The Mystery of Daffodil Terrace	Percy Fitzgerald	275
13. Why New Houses Are Haunted	Elwyn Keith	294*
14. A Very Queer Inn	M. B. Archer	307

To the best of my knowledge, only #5 and #6 have been reprinted in other anthologies.

#13 may have inspired another ghost story I read about candles going out faster than the investigator could relight them. #2 has a sort of jocular ending to indicate the likelihood of a supernatural consequence of the story, but is not qualified as fantasy. #6 and #14 are cases of emotional attachment to the bodies of the deceased, but are not fantasy.

Streetwalker; New York, The Viking Press, 1960 (1959,
The Bodley Head) 178p.

By coincidence, I read this book just before reading Rechy's Numbers. This is definitely the best written and most illuminating account of the first year in the life of a prostitute that I have read, and seems to me to confirm the basic thesis of Rechy's book: that sex is an obsession when engaged in excessively, and that irrational behavior (aimless and self-defeating) characterizes its practitioners.

Calling herself Jay, a girl in her early twenties who has just severed the ties of an unsatisfactory marriage and a failing business, is encouraged to set herself up as a prostitute by another and her ponce who, if Jay had been able to appraise their existence, should have provided her with a warning against the life. Working independently, and with her own standards of behavior, Jay is reasonably successful, and has saved enough to buy a moderately priced car, which she feels will assist her to increase her earnings. She is contemptuous of the prostitutes who support ponces, but after a frightening experience with a pervert, falls into the hands of one herself, deluding herself into thinking him sympathetic and kind in spite of the warnings of friends and her own doubts after she becomes acquainted with him. When he succeeds in estranging all her friends, he controls her absolutely, and her need of him makes her accept every indignity, though she knows he is wasting her earnings in gambling.

Well educated, and from a very good family, Jay has been a rebel from an early age, and has made mistakes estranging her from her family in spite of their efforts to help her. I see in her a type of personality deeply motivated by self-destructive tendencies, contemptuous of prevailing morality (not unreasonably, since it really is deplorable and hypocritical), unable to develop worthwhile goals in life, and subconsciously convinced of her own worthlessness, who is nevertheless trying desperately to find love and understanding from other humans. The de-humanizing effect of commercial or impersonal sexual relations is here, as in Rechy's book, made clear: what should be wonderful becomes sordid and brutalizing, the constructive becomes destructive.

The point most worth pondering, it seems to me, is the compulsive need of the prostitute to devote herself to the demands of her ponce or pimp in return for the inconstant and often cruel treatment he accords her. This book seems to me to be a realistic portrayal of the problem.

Tricks of the Town: Being reprints of three eighteenth century tracts, with an Introduction by Ralph Strauss, and eight illustrations; London, Chapman and Hall Ld 256p.

Contents

Introduction	ix
Tricks of the Town Laid Open (1747)	1
A Trip Through the Town (1735)	111
A Trip from St. James's to the Exchange (1744)	183

This is a reprint of these pamphlets, published in a limited edition of 1000 copies, very well bound and printed, and with a ribbon attached as a page=marker.

The first pamphlet is a series of letters addressed to a young country gentleman warning him of the dangers of being swindled and debauched by shoals of sharpers and their bawds, and advising him against leaving his estate.

The second is more a description of life in London as viewed by an observer during a short journey.

The third is another version of the second pamphlet, some of the material being an almost exact reprint, but modifications in a few instances being quite startling.

The London of this age was said to be the wickedest city in the world, and these pamphlets appear to support that view.

A sophisticated person is fully aware of most of the hazards described in this book, but it could still be cautionary to young people of modern times.

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"The Way of the Heart Is a Relationship, Not Merely a Technique": An Invitation to a Direct and Sacred Relationship with the Divine World-Teacher and True Heart-Master, Da Avabhasa (The Bright); (1991, Sri Love-Anandashram (Naitauba) Pty Ltd. 40p.

This booklet is a promotional introduction to the teachings of a living "Master" of an apparently world-wide cult, similar in many ways to Bahai, Theosophy, Mormonism, Christian Science, New Thought, Swedenborgianism, each of which was led by human beings convinced that he or she was the bearer of a new revelation that would lead its followers to peace and God.

It has strong appeal for people who need an object or person to love, and who have not found elsewhere a philosophy which they can accept and to which they can offer devotion.

The photograph on Page 21 of four attractive young women who constitute "The Da Avabhasa Gurukula Kanyadana Kumari Order" made me think of the two-volume work Spiritual Wives by William Hepworth Dixon (London, Hurst and Blackett, Publishers, 1868).

I see nothing in the teachings offered that Jesus has not long ago offered to those who believe in Him. Only the fact that this new leader is in the world today, and the fundamental teachings of Jesus have been neglected or distorted by organized religious groups may attract people to Da Avabhasa.

The glowing praise of his disciples reminded me of my wish to become acquainted with Ralph Waldo Trine after I read his book In Tune with the Infinite.

Aside from Jesus, however, most religious leaders turn out to be "human, all too human".

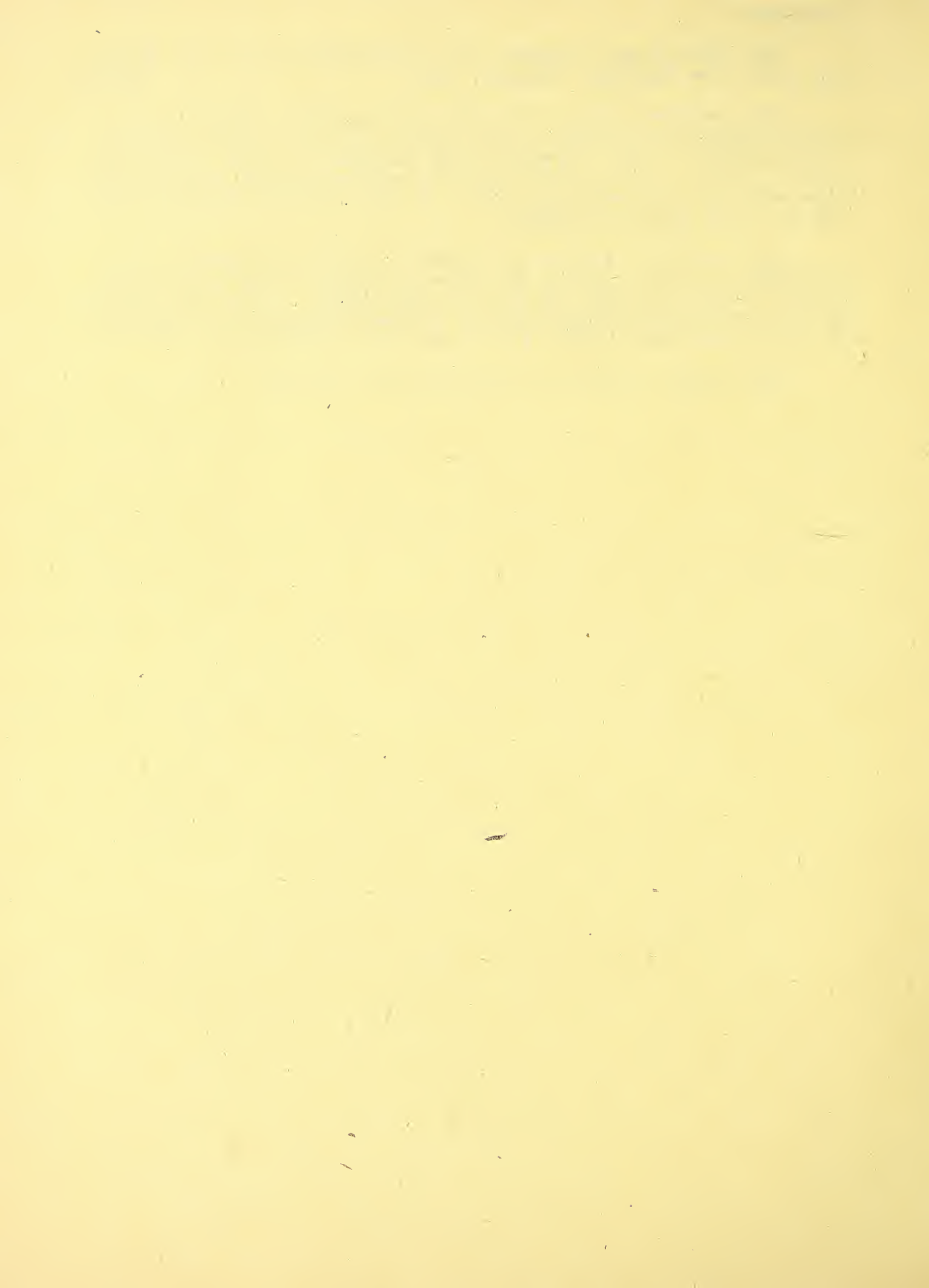
Anonymous

The White Paper; Preface and illustrations by Jean Cocteau
New York, The Macaulay Company, 1958 88 p.

The preface gives a hint that this may be Cocteau's own autobiographical account of his homosexuality, and the text is a description of the discovery and exercise of this in contemporary France. His suggestion that sailors resort to the practice when in port backs up others I have read indicating that the sea life makes it common.

Heterosexual adventures or relationships are mainly for screening from the public the true inclinations of homosexuals and are rarely lasting in spite of marriages. Even the intense love or erotic relationships are seldom lasting, and deception is often practised in the effort to hide infidelity.

This seems to me to be an authentic account.



Witchcraft, Magic and the Supernatural: The Weird World of the Unknown; London, Octopus Books Limited, (1974, Publishers); Bibliography; Index; Illustrated; 176p.

Contents

The Supernatural at Work	Douglas Hill	6
Devils, Demons and Evil Spirits	Tessa Clark	46
The Practice of Magic and Witchcraft	Pat Williams	62
The Forces of Nature	Tessa Clark	108
Ritual and Ceremony	Frank Myth	116
Magic in the Modern World	Do.	148
Further Reading		173
Acknowledgments		174
Index		175

These are authoritative essays, with indications that supernormal phenomena are now being studied scientifically, but in general a reporting job with little credence given to the occurrences narrated. The background of superstition is not neglected, and the beliefs outlined in the fourth essay remain in large part to be investigated scientifically.

For study purposes the index is essential.

Mystery: An Anthology of the Mysterious in Fact and Fiction; London, Hulton Press, 1952; Illustrated 439p.

Contents

1. Beat of a Lifetime	Negley Farson	1*
2. Screaming Skulls	Christina Hole	25A*
3. The Zombie of Alto Parana	W. Stanley Moss	33
4. The Mysterious Sense of Direction	Peter Scott	61A*
5. The Scarlet Belt	Daniel Petteward	75
6. Foggy Bottom	Christopher Morley	93
7. Along Came a Spider	Algernon Blackwood	102A*
8. Fame for Ferdinand	J. T. Story	108
9. Scandal in Athens	Kathleen Freeman	115
10. Twelve Peaks to the Sky	F. E. Smith	134*
11. The Invisible Worm	Geoffrey Grigson	147A*
12. Last Night I Died	Morris Cooper	154*
13. The Parcel	John Peters	167*
14. Mind to Mind	Kenneth Walker	178A*
15. Mind to Mind: But How?	Banesh Hoffmann	196A*
16. How Indeed?	Kenneth Walker	203A*
17. Cranford Revisited	Ianthe Jerrold	211
18. Tracking Henry's Tomb	Humphry Bullock	219A
19. The Case of the Professor's Chair	Mary Fitt	224
20. London's "Mystery" Men	Hannen Swaffer	241A
21. Behind the Stumps	Russell Kirk	249*
22. Commission on Ghosts	Sagittarius	268T*
23. Postscript to Harry Price	Robert Fordyce	
	Aickman	270A*
24. Catpaw	Frank Stuart	279*
25. Writer's Witch	Joan Fleming	290*
26. Drury Lane Ghost	W. Macqueen-Pope	299A*
27. The Slave Detective	Wallace Nichols	311*
28. Harry	Donald Gilchrist	344
29. No Such Folk	Lord Raglan	358
30. The Minister's Pool	Lord Belhaven	368*
31. What Song the Siren Sang	Sagittarius	376P*
32. Noel	Burgess Drake	378
33. Lucifer Over London	Lewis Spence	391*
34. The Roman Wood	Dorothy Edwards	401*
35. George Barnwell	Lillian de la Torre	418A
36. Hedunit	Sagittarius	436P

This is an excellent anthology of fact and fiction, much in the fashion of the London Mystery Magazine from which many of these items may have been taken. I have not verified this. Of the articles, (2), (4), (7), (11), (14), (15), (16), (23), (26), and (29) should be retained for reference; most are important. Of the stories, (10), (21), and (30) are perhaps the best. Because of missing pages, I did not read (9) and (32). Other missing pages did not ruin certain other stories, which are comprehensible without the complete text.

Anonymous Anthology

Three Stories; with an Introduction by Sam Moskowitz;
Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967 184p.

Contents

Introduction: The Sense of Wonder	Sam Moskowitz	1
1. The Mole Pirate	Murray Leinster	19
2. The Moon Era	Jack Williamson	69
3. Exiles on Asperus	John Wyndham	125

I bought this book mainly for the Introduction, but in it Moskowitz says very little that he hasn't already said in other essays. He relates these stories and their authors to that period in the history of pulp science fiction when the stories did not take for granted the background which is used by modern authors as if it were well known to all readers, as it may be by now.

I read the stories mainly because they were easier to read in hardcover than to dig out the magazines. They are not exceptionally outstanding, but representative of their authors' work at date of publication.

Anonymous symposium

Sex and the Unmarried Woman; New York City, Award Books
(September, 1964) 187p.

This anthology of articles, with introductory material for each section, is apparently compiled from Sexology Magazine, which is said to have been published continuously for thirty years. I am inclined to feel that the articles are authoritative and reliable, and that the book should be kept for reference.

8

An-Sky, S. (Pseud. of Shlome Zanvil Rappoport)

The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds; Translated from the Yiddish with a Biographical and Bibliographical Note and Introduction by S. Morris von Engel. (Apparently published by the Author, and printed in Winnipeg by the Comet Press) (The Note is dated October, 1952; introductory plus 68p.)

Biographical and Bibliographical Note VII-IX
Introduction: Some Reflections on The Dybbuk XIII-XXVIII
The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds 5-68

The Introduction outlines the story of the play, which is said to be the only completed dramatic work of the author, though his published works comprised fifteen volumes. It is based on folklore, but implies the acceptance of spirit-possession by the synagogue, and the rite of exorcism.

The story is about a pact made by two Yeshiva students that if their wives, whom they marry on the same day, have a boy and a girl, these will later marry. One becomes wealthy, the other a scholar; the son of the scholar visits the wealthy man and falls in love with the latter's daughter while he is studying; but the father looks for a wealthy suitor and ignores the student, later claiming that he did not recognize him as the son of his friend. The student, feeling his love to be hopeless, begins studying the Kabbala in hope of achieving mastery of his environment, but weakens and dies.

As a Dybbuk (a Hebrew word of Kabbalistic derivation literally meaning "attachment", and referring basically to a migrant soul which enters the body of a living person and refuses to leave it unless exorcised by a religious rite), the student Khanen enters the body of his beloved Lea, and after the spirit of Nissen tells the Chief Rabbi his complaint, Lea's father Sender is called to trial before the minyem or ten elders and the Chief Rabbi who say that by law no contract was made, but that morally Sender should have complied with the terms of the pact; they take half his wealth and require him to penitance. The spirits of Khanen and Lea join and vanish together before she can be married to her affianced bridegroom.

This play is important more for the confirmation of the belief in the spirit world and the communication between the heavenly and earthly worlds, than for its dramatic appeal.

The Dybbuk; Translated and adapted by John Hirsch;
Edited by Barbara Kaufman and Michal Schonberg; Illustrations
by Paul S. Weldon; Winnipeg, Manitoba, Peguis Publishers
Limited; Notes; (1975) xv plus 119p.

This excellent version of Ansky's play is still not easy reading for Gentiles because of the Jewish names, the Jewish and Yiddish words and religious observances, and its having been written almost a hundred years ago. (Mistake: Foreword says between 1911 and 1914) Time of play 100 years ago.

Nowhere in the Preface or in the book is there mention that Hirsch did the cover for S. Morris von Engel's translation of the play which was published in Winnipeg in 1953.

It seems to me to be possible that none of the compilers of CDN SF & F have read this play. If they did, I doubt that they would have shown it (on Page 60) as a "Russian-Jewish play", since at the time of the events of the play the Russians were carrying out pogroms against the Polish Jews in which hundreds of thousands of Jews were slaughtered. It is true that Barbara Kaufman says it is claimed to have been written first in Yiddish or in Russian.

Simply summarized, the story is of two Jews who married at about the same time, promising each other that if one had a boy and the other a girl, their children would be married. The boy's father died; his son became a student who called often at the home of the girl's wealthy father, who, because he wished a wealthy match for his daughter, never recognized the boy as his friend's son, or kept his pledge.

Arranging an advantageous match for his daughter, Sender is told by a Rabbi that he is accused by the spirit of his old friend, who has appeared three times in dreams to the Rabbi, of faithlessness. Sender denies the charge, saying he did not recognize the boy as his friend's son. The boy, who had died, had been a student of the Kabbalah and other magic writings, and possesses the body of the girl, who speaks with his voice. Although the spirit is exorcized, it appears in brilliant light and unites with the girl before she can marry her father's choice.

Although primarily a morality play, spirit-possession and exorcism, and the presence of a Messenger "Between Two Worlds", makes it a fantasy.

Anson, Jay

The Amityville Horror; New York, Bantam Books (#11660), August, 1978; (Sept., 1977, (Author and the Lutz parents) 300p.
Bantam Movie Edition (#13160), July, 1979 269p.

The author bases this account on interviews with the Lutz family and with other participants in the events of 28 days the Lutz family spent in the allegedly haunted mansion formerly occupied by the DeFeo family, six of whom were killed by Ronald DeFeo.

I had previously read books by Hans Holzer based on the tragedy and which indicated that evil spirits, jealous of the occupation of their burial ground by white people were determined to drive them out. These books influenced me to accept the possibility of the troubles the Lutz family experienced. However, Anson in narrating the alleged facts detailed even the thoughts of the people involved, and the lack of confirmation by those people led me to look for reviews of this book.

The SPR did not review the book up to the end of 1980 and I did not search their Journal beyond that date. However, since this book was a best seller in both hardcover and paperback, I found in FATE magazine for May, 1978 an article entitled "The Amityville Hoax" by Rick Moran and Peter Jordan, debunking Anson's account and accusing him of exaggerated use of his imagination.

Anson maintained the truth of his account, but characters in the events denied the alleged facts.

The publishers emphasized the book as "A TRUE STORY". Many other accounts of supernatural events have been challenged that readers must be cautious in accepting any uncritically. That a thorough investigation is warranted is true because there are in fact occurrences which cannot be explained. The SPR was formed to investigate, and has done noble work.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 10, 2003

"50 years of Ghost Stories" London, Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd.
 N. 10. 13-702 pp. (Entire Contents reprinted in "A Century of Ghost Stories")

Blurb from dust jacket: "Ghosts may come and ghosts may go, but their eerie attraction remains perennial. Who can fail to become a little excited and a little more interested at the mention of that "witching time of night when churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out contagion to the world"? Few can truthfully say that beseeching ghosts, ancient haunted mansions, and the strange spirits that dwell there, have no hold over them.

"This splendid collection of the greatest ghost stories of the last half century will appeal to thousands. The most famous creators of mysterious phenomena and queer spirits are all here, and include Sir Walter Scott, Bram Stoker, Shane Leslie, Walter de la Mare, Ambrose Bierce, Oliver Onions, and many other well-known writers who have kept the world from their sleep with haunting fears. They are all here in one volume to thrill and horrify you, and to do it so well and so gracefully that you cannot refrain from dipping deeper into this grand and eerie volume."

Note: It is apparent from my copy of A Century of Ghost Stories that the book comprises unaltered sheets of the earlier volume, plus added stories, as the paper used for the final (added) stories is newer. CDC

Note: Although anonymously published, it appears from Dorothy Lomlinson's introduction to the American collection of ghost stories reprinted from this volume, that she edited this book. CDC

Anthology

Great Adventure Stories; Compiled by Louis Morris; Illustrated by Earle Winslow; New York, Hart Publishing Company (1960) 191p.

Contents

1. The Gold Bug	Edgar Allan Poe	9
2. The Bamboo Trap	Robert Lemmon	65
3. The Most Dangerous Game	Richard Connell	77
4. The Unstoppable Man	Michael Gilbert	125
5. Leiningen Versus the Ants	Carl Stephenson	147

Although I have three of these stories in other volumes, I read 2, 4, and 5 from this book. They are all good stories and in some cases have sufficient horror to be classified on that account as weird, but I consider none are fantasy.

Donated to Fleet Street

ANTHOLOGY

My Grimmett Nightmare; London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd.
(1935); Drawings by Vladimir Kirin 210pp.

Contents

1. The Follower	Lady Cynthia Asquith	13*
2. To Be Let Unfurnished	Gabrielle Vallings	20*
3. Thunderbolt	Miranda Stuart	28*
4. By Water	Algernon Blackwood	39*
5. Not Long for This World	Inez Holden	48
6. Jungle Night	R. A. Monson	57
7. The Anonymous Gift	L. Vorley	62
8. "There Is One S O S"	S. E. Reynolds	68
9. In the Jotunheim Mountains	J. B. Morton	80
10. Dead Man's Room	Ernest Betts	86
11. Incubus	Marjorie Bowen	95*
12. Into the Enemy's Camp	Herbert Jay	105
13. The Mask	H. De Vere Stacpoole	128
14. Behind the Wall	Noel Streatfeild	134*
15. The Mad Hatter	Edgar Middleton	143
16. Six Months Ago	James Laver	147*
17. Rendezvous with Fate	Cecil Madden	154
18. Serenade for Baboons	Noel Langley	165*
19. The Surprise Item	Charles Spencer	178
20. Split Second	Ann Knox	184*
21. The Blackmailers	Algernon Blackwood	190*
22. Room 2000 Calling	Theodora Benson	204*

*Indicates fantasy or weird.

1,2,3,4,21,22 are worth re-reading, but none would enter the category of literature with the possible exception of 21.

"Shudders: A Collection of Uneasy Tales"

London, Philip Allan, 1932

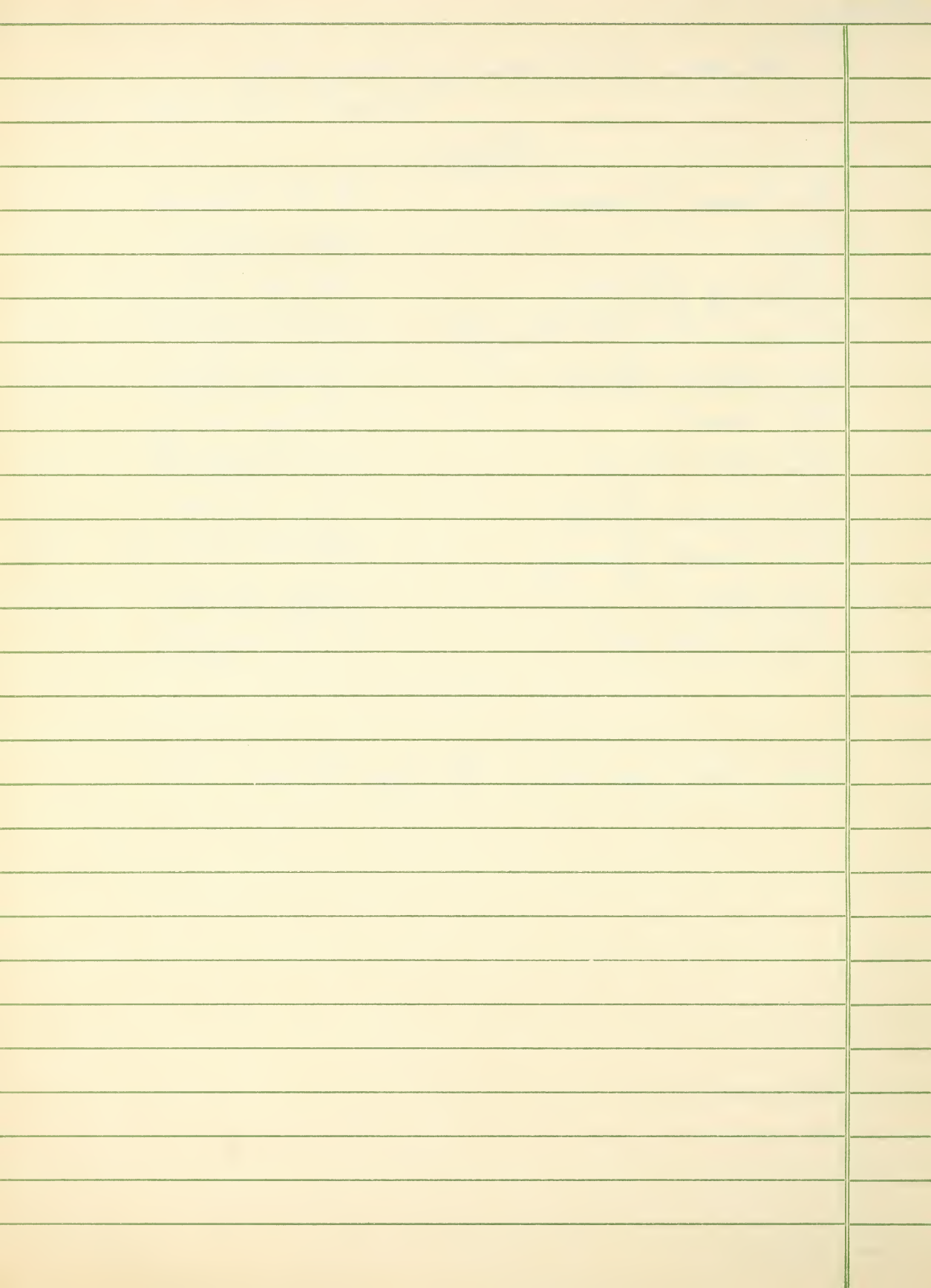
Contents

1.	Of Persons Unknown	H. R. Wakefield	7
2.	Loys	Tod Robbins	35
3.	Accusing Shadows	Elliott O'Donnell	77
4.	Professor Pownall's Oversight	H. R. Wakefield	95
5.	The Harlem Horror	Charles Lloyd	119
6.	The Trunk	Philip Murray	137
7.	The Third Coach	H. R. Wakefield	143
8.	The Crimson Blind	Mrs. Everett	169
9.	The Haunted Spinney	Elliott O'Donnell	195
10.	The Patch	Philip Murray	213
11.	That Dieth Not	H. R. Wakefield	219

5

9-254

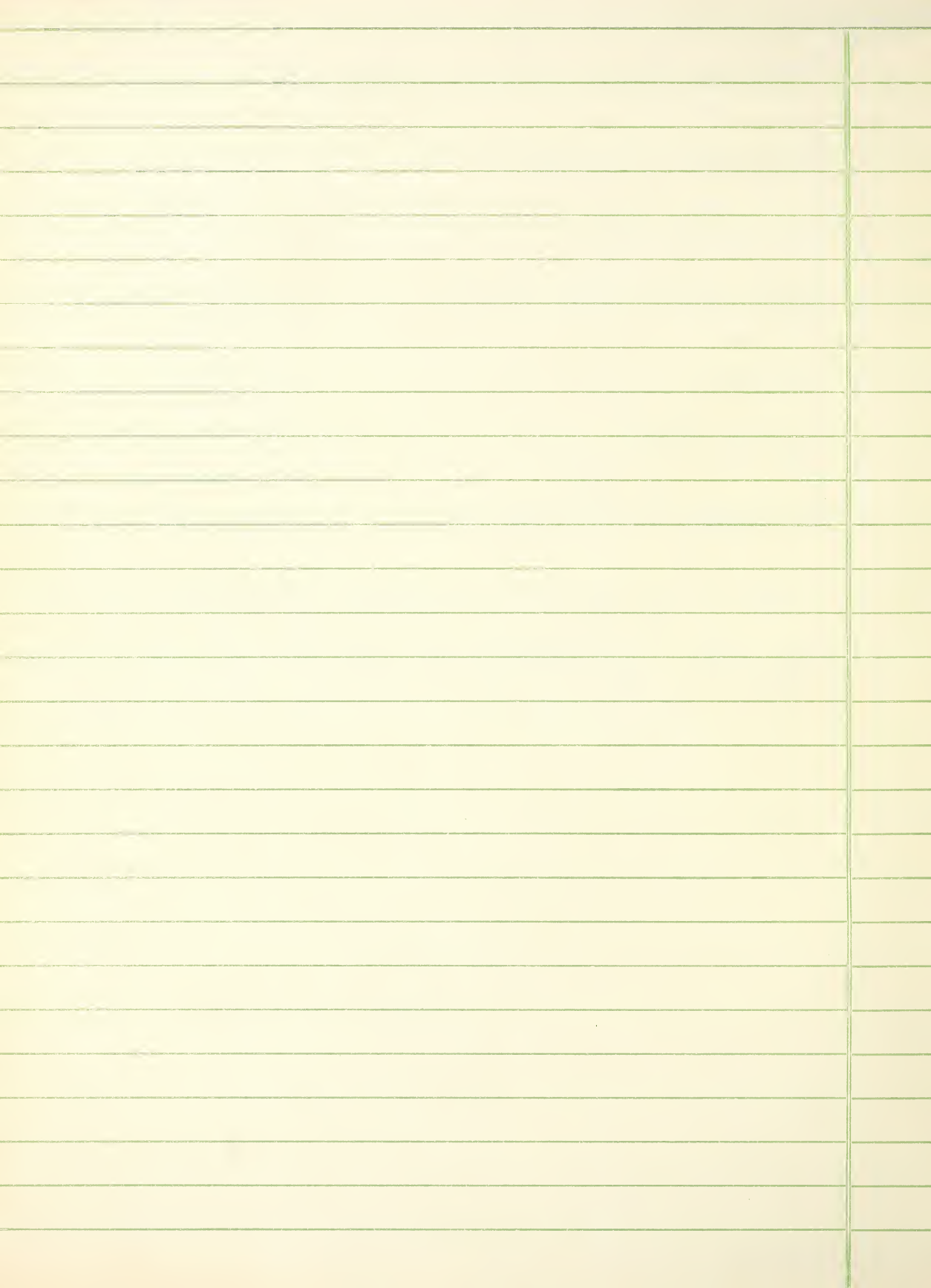
Entire volume reprinted in "The Creeps Omnibus" 1935.



Uncanny Stories ; London, C. Arthur Pearson, Limited, 1919 7-125

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 1. | The Unknown Quantity | E. R. Punshon | 7. |
| 2. | The Armless Man | H. G. Litt | 19. |
| 3. | The Dantom Chue | C. Morgan & J. Jarvis | 33. |
| 4. | The Case of Sir Alistair Moeran | Margaret Strickland | 43. |
| 5. | The Kiss | Mr. E. Royce | 63. |
| 6. | The Goth | Roy Vickers | 73. |
| 7. | The Last Ascent | E. R. Punshon | 88. |
| 8. | The Terror by Night | Lewis Hister | 97. |
| 9. | The Tragedy at the "Loup Noir" | Gladys Stern | 113. |

This is well above average weird fiction, possibly drawn from the pages of the 'Novel Magazine' as I note there is another volume, intitled "More Uncanny Stories" "Selected from the 'Novel Magazine'".



Anton (Antonia Yeoman & H. Underwood Thompson)

Cartoons

Anton's Amusement Arcade; London, Collins, 1947 96p.

Originally published in Punch, The Tatler and Bystander and Lilliput, these cartoons illustrate the British sense of humor, the slight exaggeration of ordinary social situations.

This is a well-printed and bound volume, and I did not at first realize its nature.

Antonio, San

Alien Archipelago; Translation by Hugh Campbell; London, Michael Joseph (1971), (1970, Campbell), (1969, France) 157p.

It is difficult to tell whether this is intended as an imitation of "James Bond", or a spoof. It is, however, a poor quality, punning, offhand, story of a French Superintendent of Police and his drinking, swinking, overweight aid, who impersonate British agents bent on acquiring a mythical island ruled by an overweight Queen who imports beautiful girls for her delectation.

Aside from the "lost race" aspect of the mythical island, this novel has no fantasy implications excepting some customs of the island, and is of no importance in a fantasy collection. Possibly Ian Fleming collectors would be interested in it as an associational item.

Appel, Benjamin

Man and Magic; pictured by Jacob Landau; New York, Pantheon
Books (1966, Random House, Inc.); Bibliography; Index 178p

This book although probably intended for children provides a comprehensive study of its subject from the point of view of anthropology. It emphasises that magic remains influential, even in its modern guise of science, the effort of man to control nature.

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C E L E B R A T I N G
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Apsler, Alfred

From Witch Doctor to Biofeedback: The Story of Healing by
Suggestion; New york, Julian Messner; (1977, author) 2nd ptg.,
1978; Bibliography; Index 191p.

This is an accurate history of the subject, comprehensive in
touching on all aspects of mental healing, but superficial and
lacking in specific sources, although the bibliography is a good
one for beginners.

About the only really new information for me was comment on
Kathryn Kuhlman.

I might have been inclined to discard this book if it had no
index; but the index is very helpful in tracking down the author's
views, so I shall keep the book for reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
April 3, 2000

Arch, E. L.

Bridge to Yesterday; New York, Avalon Books (1963,
Arch) 192p.

Leo Tenney, while undergoing an experiment in suspended animation, is buried by a mine cave-in, and awakens 25 years later. Emerging through a previously unknown vent, he goes to a public library in an effort to get information about his partner and the lapse of time, and meets Nina Rollins, a girl reporter for All Over Magazine. She scents a mystery about him, and agrees to combine his search for his partner with her own quest for news.

They suspect Virgil Smith of using other names bearing the same initials, and one lead suggests that he may be on the moon. Refused permission to investigate there, they go to Ganymede where they hope to find why Bruce Abbott, another reporter for All Over, had disappeared there. They discover that Ganymede has swift-growing, narcotic vegetation which entraps and grows in other organisms, and barely make their escape after learning that Abbott had suffered that fate.

They then go to a sanitarium colony in an effort to learn from a twinned musician who had killed his brother, something of Leo's partner. This fails, as does a plot they share to escape with other inmates; but they are dismissed as meddling reporters, without effect and without penalty.

They then go to Leo's former college, where they find that Leo's old girl friend has been imitating Valentino's mysterious veiled admirer and commemorating her love of Leo by placing forgetmenots in a chapel, though she was married to Leo's old partner, Virgil Smith. Leo thinks her to be her mother, and realizes that his quest is pointless when he finds Smith and his former girl friend, so decides to marry Nina.

Although reasonably well written, this hackneyed and pointless story is a waste of time. Apart from some old ideas of science fiction, it could be a romantic novel of the Harlequin type.

Arch, E. L.

The Man with Three Eyes; New York, Avalon Books (1967,
Arch) 190p.

A trick eye, obtained by chance from a novelty shop, enables its wearer to view scenes relating to an alien world with an effect of horror. Dan Gorman, a science fiction magazine illustrator, becomes its possessor, and is made the target of Government secret agents and agents of aliens who intend to invade and conquer earth.

The scenes are mainly parties and a boarding house in which various races are represented, including a U.N. girl secretary from Ethiopia. Pets of the occupants are used as communicators with the aliens, and finally a plant houses the alien intelligence as its host.

This is a contrived and barely interesting story, of no permanent interest.

Pandemic; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company,
Inc., 1973 (1973, Ardies) 240p.

This appears to be the third novel featuring Charlie Sparrow, C.I.A. agent.

Sparrow is directed to set himself up as pimp to supply a girl a month to a billionaire, and specifically an actress with whom he was years before emotionally and sexually involved, and to whom he might have been married if he had not been dedicated to his job.

The billionaire Orsovin is aware of the plot, but gives Sparrow his chance against his own security chief. Sparrow is troubled by his role, but when he learns that his ex-girl friend is now a new-man-each-night movie star, dissipated and drunken much of the time, feels that his romantic involvement is over, and carries out his role.

The early part of the book describes the setting up of Sparrow's identity in his role; the latter part shows him unravelling the mystery of Orsovin, who believes himself the new messiah, with twelve sons as disciples, who is to remake the world after decimating its population by means of a new flu virus. Sparrow penetrates a laboratory ruled by one of the sons, but is unmasked before he can escape.

The ultimate climax of the story, where Sparrow and the actress are guests of the billionaire, and when Sparrow has to exert his own resources against the specific orders of Morley, is well worked out. Sparrow proves, as in his first case, that Orsovin and his sons are crazy.

In both novels, Ardies goes back to the earliest plot of science fiction--the "mad scientist" story; but he brings the plot up to date, with information about the flu virus and its dangers.

This is science fiction-secret agent stuff, presented at a fast, hard-boiled pace.

Note: Paperback edition: Ben Mills, Ontario, Paperjacks
#7737-7066 (1974) 210p.

Their Man in the White House; London and Basingstoke,
Macmillan and Co Ltd (1971, Ardies) 190p.

Aside from an episode of coma following an automobile accident to one of identical twin girls, there is no element of fantasy in this Charlie Sparrow secret agent novel of the Russians endeavoring to get control of the White House by switching a brain-washed daughter of the candidate for the other twin. They have suggested a history, confirmed by newspaper reports, but one of these is a mistake and alerts Charlie to the switch, which he has previously suspected because he beds the girl and finds her a virgin whereas the profile given him by his chief says she has been "around the block" often.

This, like the other Ardies novels, is a fast-paced modern secret agent yarn, intelligently plotted.

Ardies, Tom

This Suitcase Is Going to Explode; Don Mills, Ontario, PaperJacks (1974), (McClelland & Stewart), (1972,Ardies)234p

This appears to be the first of three novels featuring Charles Sparrow, agent for the C.I.A.

Sparrow is a super-intelligent, resourceful, handsome and capable secret agent, dedicated to his work and with few ideals. His chief, Morley, commands his respect; but Charlie is often in hot water because of his tendency to joke beyond the area of prudence.

German technicians have developed the atom bomb to a point where one can be carried in a suitcase, and warnings are given that several bombs have been planted in key cities. Sparrow undertakes the job of tracking down the criminals who make the threat, and discovers that many of them are high in the U. S. government chain of command. Ultimately, he finds that the first bomb scheduled to be exploded is in Hawaii, and he manages to thwart the plan.

Sparrow enjoys beautiful women, and much of the story hinges on his involvement with a beautiful girl connected with one of the criminals, and his unfruitful pursuit of his dumb blonde secretary.

This is a competent, fast-moving secret agent story, and in addition to information about atomic bombs, has much information about hypnosis.

Ardrey, Robert

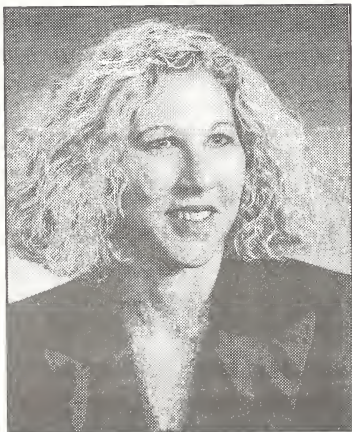
Thunder Rock: a play in three acts; London, Hamish Hamilton
(1940) author; 128p.

A disillusioned pilot from the first world war becomes a lighthouse keeper on Lake Michigan, withdraws from any interest in the world and creates for company the captain and part of the passengers of a ship which was wrecked many years ago. They become his companions and assume reality.

This is more a literary device than a realistic portrayal of spirit return or ghosts, and is used to compare the dismal modern world with the simpler earlier one.

A pilot friend tries to persuade the lighthouse keeper to go with him to the Orient, but he refuses, preferring his ghosts.

I'm sure that I failed to comprehend all the author tried to convey, but this play failed to keep my attention.



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3. If you are considering selling your home, now is the time!

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Arkright, Frank

The A B C of Technocracy: Based on Authorized Material
New York and London, Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1933 73p.

The author emphasizes the necessity of forgoing the old price system in favor of Technocracy's engineering criteria, pointing out that the dollar has no fixed purchasing value, whereas measurement in ergs of energy and calories of heat are constant. Under the price system, wealth is measured in debt: since high incomes cannot be spent by their owners for consumption, the surplus must be invested; and as the sum of investment increases, there is pressure to find an adequate income return to compensate for the lower price of money when it is plentiful.

Because of the high unemployment rate during the depression, the author points out that machinery has replaced human labor, giving statistics to show the decrease of manpower required for higher production. Since the available energy is many times that made possible by human labor, the value of man's work has decreased: he has become the watchman and the guide of machinery, rather than the sole source of energy he was during the pre-steam era. The shift of employment is not adequate to provide service industries capable of using all the manpower available, so shorter working hours, longer vacations, less use of child labor, earlier retirement, and increased welfare measures are inevitable; and wages must be high to enable humans to purchase the higher production of the machine.

The author says that debts will never be retired because often machinery is obsolete before it is paid for and bonds must continually be issued to pay for improved technology. I have noted this in connection with bond issues from firms who should have been able through internally generated cash to avoid increasing debt. The continual inflation is a result of the higher prices which must be charged to pay the burden of debt.

The author is right in insisting that it is senseless to be hamstrung by an outworn economic system, and that it must break down through inevitable bankruptcy when the purchasing power of the producers becomes less than the cost of financing. The bankers and owners of capital are relying on a standard which is variable and meaningless when consideration is given to the fact that we can produce far more than we can consume, so that ultimately money, whose value depends on its scarcity must be made artificially scarce by high interest rates to reduce demand for it.

Arlen, Michael

Hell! Said the Duchess: A Bedtime Story; Garden City,
New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1934 241p.

This is a surprising short novel. Ostensibly a murder mystery about a female known as Jane the Ripper who obscenely kills three young men, it brings under suspicion a beautiful, chaste Duchess whose male cousin aids the police to solve the case.

Commencing the story in a style mocking the police and their methods of investigation, Arlen alters the conclusion to a serious depiction of fantasy. As a whole, the story is a spoof of both murder mysteries and vampire and werewolf mythology.

It might also be extended as a spoof of the possibility of world conquest by aliens.

On page 133 one of the characters says: "I certainly have more confidence in Einstein than in Conan Doyle." This page continues with comments indicating scepticism of any human system of belief.

Is its description of sexual activity as ultimate evil also mocking this idea?

Very unusual.

Armstrong, Charlotte

Mischief; New York, Coward-McCann, Inc.(1950, author) 182p.

This novel is listed in Tymn's American Fantasy and Science Fiction, and as Ned Brooks assisted in compiling this work, I am sending him a copy of these notes.

Peter O. Jones, publisher and editor of a newspaper is to give a speech in New York City, and his wife's sister, who had agreed to babysit their nine year old daughter Bunny, asked to be excused, so an elevator boy in the hotel offered his niece as a substitute. As he had been employed for fourteen years, the Joneses accepted his promise to supervise the babysitter, and hired her at fifty cents an hour.

They did not know that the girl Nell Munro had been involved in an "accidental" fire which had destroyed her home and resulted in the death of her parents, and that the elevator boy and his wife were trying to ease her into employment and make her self-sustaining.

Nell acts erratically, finally binding and gagging Bunny to silence her crying so that she can go dancing with Jed, who has quarreled with his best girl on the eve of leaving the country for a new job, and sees Nell at the window of the room. When Jed awakens to doubt of Nell's sanity, he endeavors to escape, but he and Nell have been drinking, he fears having been observed by other residents of the hotel, and is trapped by Nell who threatens to accuse him of attacking her.

Jed's girl friend tries to find him by phoning his room in the hotel, then goes to the hotel in her effort to reconcile with him. A retired schoolteacher senses that something is wrong and she alerts the hotel personnel and visits the Jones' suite to see that the child who had been crying is all right.

Mrs. Jones, having tried to calm her fears by phoning Nell, finally leaves the social gathering, and struggles with Nell when Nell tries to prevent her finding the bound child.

The rescuers win, and Nell is sent to an asylum; Jed and his girl are reconciled, and all ends happily.

There is obviously no element of fantasy in this story; it is a straight suspense novel, not even a mystery. Possibly included in Tymn's list as a horror novel, I can see no other reason for its being listed.

Although the suspense is well maintained, the writing is not well done, and I would rate the book as merely a thriller.

Armstrong, Margaret

The Man with No Face; New York, Random House (1940, Publishers) 279p.
London, Robert Hale Limited, (1941)) 248p.

The two editions appear to provide the same text, closer printing accounting for the difference in pages.

Despite being listed in the First Edition of Bleiler, this novel has no element of fantasy which would qualify it.

The adopted son of an Australian millionaire is granted his estate only if all blood relations are extinct, so he decides to seek them out and murder them in ways no one will suspect. As a clever but unscrupulous killer, he cultivates so ordinary an appearance that few people meeting him can recall him sufficiently clearly to provide a discription of him.

A young artist painting the portrait of the first victim and an elderly scholar and genealogist become suspicious when she has apparently committed suicide, that foul play is involved. They ingeniously trace the remaining relatives, some too late to save them from death. Finally an attractive young girl escapes several attempts on her life, falls in love with the artist, and the killer commits suicide at his failure, blowing off his face to justify the book's title.

Although fairly interesting, this is a contrived and padded mystery novel, with too many coincidences and absolutely no credit given the authorities for technical investigation of the deaths.

Although fairly interesting, the situation is revealed so clearly from the start of the book that there is little mystery or suspense.

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Arnaldi, Jean

Fausto's Keyhole; Toronto, Popular Library (February, 1963), (Atheneum, February, 1962) 212p.

Fausto, a barber or rather hairdresser in Rome, is engaged to be married to Letizia, a tiny blonde whose dominating and perverse character is irresistible to his masochistic nature. Only 5'2" himself, he prides himself on a strong physique and manly attributes, rides a motorcycle, and is shyly attracted to women; but is falsely accused by his own father of liaisons with servants, guests in their lodging house, and other women, Fausto coming to suspect that the accusations are projections of his father's illicit amatory pursuits.

An American woman with some negro blood comes to stay at their boarding house, and at first Fausto hardly notices her. One day she emerges still damp from the bathroom and they exchange glances which establish an understanding; after one day of love she dies of a heart attack. But his relationship with her frees Fausto of his fear of his father and of the domination of Letizia who becomes submissive and whom he marries following her becoming pregnant.

This is a novel treating of love in terms of obsession rather than sharing. It is interesting and reasonably well-written, but unimportant.

Arno, Peter

The Peter Arno Pocket Book; New York, Pocket Books,
Inc. (#417), (1945) 120p.

This cartoon book consists of reprints from the New
Yorker, and is amusing.

Arons, Harry

Handbook of Self-Hypnosis; South Orange, New Jersey, Power Publishers, Inc., 1981; (1954, 1959, author); Addenda 159p.

This is probably the best practical manual for hypnotic or suggestive self-treatment. However, despite changing views as years passed. Arons appears to recommend that early treatment in hypnosis should be provided by someone other than the subject.

Again, Arons appears to have no interest in supernormal phenomena, devoting himself to habit improvement and health aims. His insistence on treatment being suited to the character of the subject agrees with advice given by qualified psychologists, and he also demands that the hypnotist be qualified and always under the direction of a physician if physical health problems are involved.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 22, 2000

Arons, Harry

New Master Course in Hypnotism; South Orange, New Jersey,
Power Publishers, Inc., 1981; (1948, 1955, 1961, publishers);
Addenda, bibliography, index 210p.

Based on tapes of actual lectures by Arons, this book is a practical instruction manual for practitioners. Arons insists that only qualified practitioners should operate, and if health problems are physical, only under supervision by physicians.

Arons ignored supernormal phenomena and was inclined to dis0 credit them, but admitted that only in a few cases was he able to induce the deepest trance. Most of his work was in eradicating bad habits or in curing health problems.

Stripped of inessentials, this instruction book is limited to everyday problems.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 23, 2000



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Prize-winning Methods of Hypnosis and Other Induction Techniques; Irvington, New Jersey, Power Publishers, Inc. (1969, publishers; Illustrated 127p.

Although intended for advanced practitioners of hypnosis, this book assembles many ideas about inducing the hypnotic trance individually or in groups of people.

The most important impression I derived is the fact that all suggestion for the trance itself is its acceptance by the subject so that autosuggestion is the sole necessity.

However, there is no doubt that an able hypnotist can help bring about confidence and assurance to people in need of treatment, and can cure functional disabilities.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 8, 2000

Arons, Harry

Techniques of Speed Hypnosis; South Orange, New Jersey,
Power Publishers, Inc. (1953, author) 67p.

Lent me by Dorothy Schell, this is a practical introduction to quick ways of inducing the various stages of trance, from waking to deep. At the close of the book two items are reprinted from his larger book. Case histories illustrate procedure.

Arons does not appear interested in the supernormal phenomena, dealing mainly with the eradication of bad habits and health problems. He points out that expectation is sometimes able to induce hypnosis before formal induction is begun.

I was familiar with most methods before reading this book, but he makes them seem simple to apply.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 21, 2000

Arsan, Emmanuelle

Emmanuelle; with 25 photographs from the film; translated by Lowell Bair; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1971), (Paris, France, Le Terrain Vague, 1967) (Dell, 2311) 221p.

This is a curiously ambivalent "novel" about a woman who is found attractive by both sexes and at first passively, and later actively, experiences sexual adventures. The frankest expression of masturbation enjoyment known to me is related in the earlier pages of the book, before intra-sexual affairs are prevalent, although the book commences with affairs in an airship which are unbelievable.

This is simply an erotic novel, and has no pretensions to literature, although the translation is good. If the film is as explicit, it appears that old standards are falling.

Arthur, Wallace

The Scandalous Scoundrel; Van Nuys, Calif., Dominion
Publishing Co., (1968, Publishers) 186p.

Alleged to be the diary of an ancestor of the author, this is more likely a fictional and soft-pornographic description of a boy nine years old when introduced to the delights of sex with a young girl who is carried on in this interest by a gypsy girl, then the daughter of a nobleman, subsequently observing the activities of a monk and two nuns, and seducing a novitiate, becoming acquainted with a highwayman who introduces him to low tavern sluts, following which he goes to France to carry on his career; but in old age has written these memoirs to warn young men against the pleasures of the flesh.

Poorly edited and printed, this is a typical ripoff of the sensational treatment of sexual adventures in the tradition of Tom Jones and the Coxcomb book. It has no value apart from its sensational treatment of sexual adventures.

Athens, Christopher

The Big Squeeze; Chicago Paperback House, Inc. (A102);
Chicago, (1962, J. L. Potter) 190p.

Told in the first person by Brodney Rosset, a payola disc-jockey, this is supposed to be a good representation of the life of a radio station, with all the girls willing and eager, and the men out for the buck. It is brashly and intelligently told, but aside from the flip commentary it has nothing of permanent value.

Ash, Brian

Who's Who in Science Fiction; London, Sphere Books Limited (#1235), (1977), (1976, Ash); 218p.

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Early in this volume is a useful summary of the main themes used in science fiction. The Bibliography includes most of the books I obtained in my early collecting period. The most useful part of this reference work, however, is the biographical and bibliographical capsules of the authors treated.

My main impression is that my collection lacks many of the principal works of British authors particularly, and of most modern American writers as well. Certainly it is vain to consider trying to add even a fraction of the missing material to my shelves and cartons.

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The Stakes Are High; New York, Pennant Books; (First Edition, September, 1954) 168p.

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This is an excellent anthology, with not a poor story. Only the two marked with an asterisk are fantasy, the Bierce primarily a horror story about a man frightened to death by a "dead" man in a locked room, the "dead" man assuming the identity of the watcher in order to escape; the Lawrence about the boy who rode his rocking-horse until convinced as to the identity of the horse to win a forthcoming race.

- #1, #4 & #9 are from Collier's
- #2 The New Yorker and Someone Like You
- #3 The New Yorker
- #5 The Grasshopper and Other Stories. Also reprinted in "Masterpieces of Adventure" edited by Nella Braddy, in the volume "Adventures within Walls" under the title "The Bet".
- #6 The Saroyan Special
- #8 The Neon Wilderness
- #8 The Saturday Evening Post; also #14
- #9 Take It Easy
- #10 Cosmopolitan
- #11 The Portable D. H. Lawrence
- #12 This Man's World
- #13 Tales of Soldiers and Civilians
- #14 Hoofbeats

#1 is faulty as regards the insurance background, but is good enough to excuse this fault. #9 is the most humorous; #15 probably the best story; but #7 very clever, only the characters out-of-keeping with their roles. This collection of stories worth re-reading.

Ashbee, Henry Spencer (Pisanus Fraxi)

Index of Forbidden Books; London, Sphere Books Limited
(1969) 432p.

Arranged alphabetically by title, this volume summarizes the author's library of erotica. The book is, I think, more useful as a guide to books to be ignored, than what might be worth collecting: the latter being few in number.

It is a handy reference; and with the Kronhausens Por-nography and the Law, probably adequate to represent the entire field for anyone not obsessed with it.

Ashby, R. C.

Out Went the Taper; New York, The Macmillan Company,
(1934, Macmillan) 320p.

Primarily a murder mystery adventure story, this novel is also a ghost story, complicated by rationalized and unrationalized psychic occurrences.

Twelve years prior to Tal Winyatt's visit from America to Wales, the landlord of the Rectory where he was staying had, with the connivance of a criminal cohort and an actor, murdered his niece. Following the murder the actor had, in his efforts to escape the other two, impersonated a traveling salesman who had also been murdered and whose body had been walled up alive with the body of the niece in the cellars of a monastery reputed to be haunted.

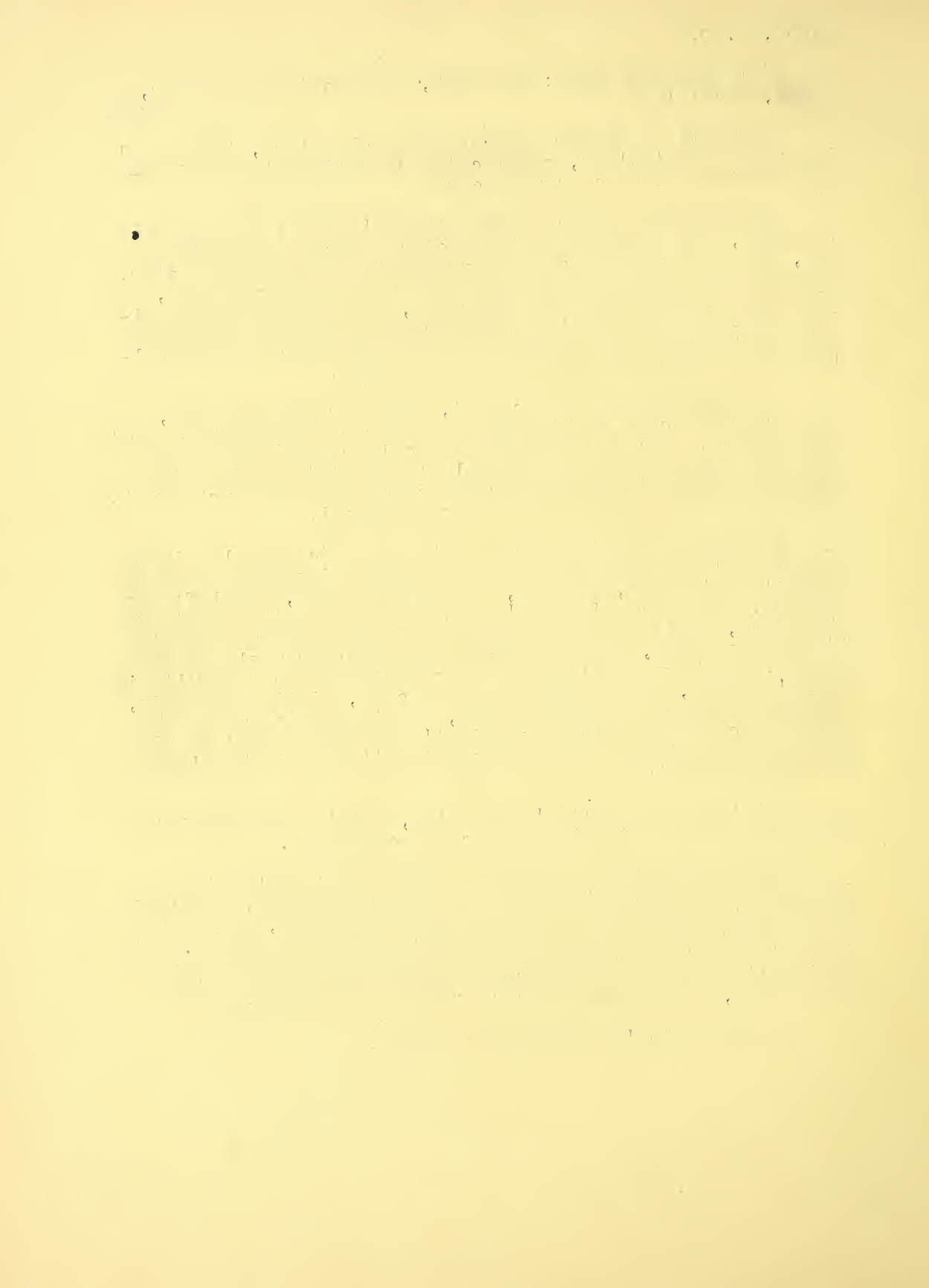
The landlord and his cohort, with a young gangster, seek out the actor to kill him and thereby remove the threat of exposure. Tal investigates the cellars and believes he has seen the ghost of the traveler; and at the end of the book the reader is left uncertain concerning how much of his adventure was psychic and how much physical.

A German scientist Gabor visits the Rectory also in an effort to learn what had happened to the niece with whom he had fallen in love, and who, he had been told, had left the country. The rector's wife's sister has seen the ghost of the niece, tells the German of the visitation thus assuring him of her death, and the German suspects her uncle of the murder. A chance meeting of the cohort and Gabor results in Gabor's death, and the son of the Rector, finding the body, suspects murder and notifies Tal, who is suspicious of the cohort because he bears a criminal's Colorado brand on his arm and has tried to evade disclosing it and his knowledge of western America.

Tal loves the Rector's daughter, but is determined to bring the gang to justice and acts accordingly.

The rationalized elements of this novel weaken the impact of the ghost story and confuse the mystery. Plotted uncertainly because of the conflicting elements, the book loses effectiveness both as a mystery and as a fantasy. It is an interesting example of the inadvisability of using rationalized and unrationalized ghostly phenomena in the same story, and perhaps that is its main importance.

I liked Ashby's other novel better.



Ashley, Michael (Editor)

The history of the Science Fiction Magazine, Vol. 1: 1926-1935
Chicago, Henry Regnery Company, 1976; (1974, London, New English
Library; Introduction; Anthology; Appendices 239p.

Aside from Wertenbaker's story which has been reprinted often elsewhere, at this late date the other stories are boring and only examples of amateurish grown-up fairy tales.

This volume is valuable only for the introduction and appendices, but it does give examples of the work of authors who became important as their careers improved.

Chester D. Cuthbert
April 25, 1999



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Asimov, Isaac

In Memory Yet Green: The Autobiography of Isaace Asimov,
1920-1954; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc.
1979; (1979, author); ; Appendix; Index 732p.

Based on his many volumes of diaries, Asimov wrote this account of his early life, which is an important sociological document and a warning to beginning writers. Times have changed since science fiction became an accepted literary form, and payment to authors has increased, but authorship is still a precarious field in which to make a living.

The detailed index makes notes unnecessary, but this book is an important reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 8, 2002

Asimov, Isaac

The Sensuous Dirty Old Man; by Dr. "A"; New York, New American Library (First Printing, June, 1972); 4th Ptg., (1971, Walker & Company); Signet (#Y4940); Illustrated 150p.

On the theme that women deserve male attentions, Asimov praises their attractions and encourages men to acknowledge them openly. Embellished with portraits of famous men whose words are misquoted by Asimov, this book is a humorous essay to tell why women appreciate dirty old men rather than clean young men.

Although entertaining, there is very little apart from the expression of the point of view and the humor to recommend this book. It is reasonably well written.

The portraits are sufficient to make this a work of reference.

A Square (Dr. Edwin Abbott)

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions; Boston, Little, Brown, and Company, 1927; with introduction by William Garrett, M.A., D.C.L.; illustrations by the author vi-xii 155p.

By humanizing geometrical forms, the author treats them as inhabitants of lines, planes, and solids, and illustrates their characteristics and limitations, reasoning from analogy the possibility of dimensions higher than the third. Amusing and entertaining, this presentation enables the reader to visualize quite clearly the reasoning involved in the concept of spatial extensions.

The introduction recommends Eddington's Space, Time and Gravitation as the best popular exposition of relativity, and outlines the thinkers who have developed ideas of higher dimensions.

Although I think that Bob Olsen's stories in early issues of AMAZING are easier to follow, this is still a praiseworthy early exposition of the subject, and qualifies as science fiction.

Piston, B. G.

"The Eye of the God" Illustrated by A. E. Haswell Muller, R.S.W.,
London and Glasgow, Blackie & Son Limited. 4 illus. 223 pp.

A very good, well-written lost race story about an underground city below the Lesser Hapi or Little Nile River in Egypt. The priests have maintained control by means of re-enactments of the ceremonies of the Egyptian gods in a city which had originally been a nucleus around which a granary of millions of bushels of wheat had been stored.

Two upper-form English schoolboys, one wearing the Eye of Horus which enables him to see what is transpiring in the hidden city, as well as to foretell events relating to it, are accompanied by the father of the wearer to the city by a strong swimmer named Joe Batey, whose common sense and prowess assist in many instances.

The father's wife has been kept captive in the city by the evil High Priest under his hypnotic control, under which spell she controls the crocodiles in a hidden pool.

Their escape from the subterranean city and from the evil Plauty, who seeks the city's treasure and the "Eye" ends the story.



Astor, Mary

My Story: An Autobiography; Illustrated endpapers;
Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. (1959, As-
tor) 332p.

Although her stage and movie career are mentioned to depict the successes and failures of her career and the more famous people she knew, this book is really the story of an inhibited and exploited girl, whose dominant father allowed her \$5.00 a week pin money when she was earning hundreds of dollars; and it was not until she asserted herself under the influence of people like John Barrymore, her sometime lover, and several other lovers or husbands, and women friends that she became reasonably independent of her parents. However, she did not easily learn to use mature judgment, and made emotional decisions which were unwise, and her choice of men seems to have been often made on the basis of whether they were good drinking companions, or would take over responsibilities that she was inclined to shirk.

On the copyright page of the book she acknowledges the help of Frank Carothers in organizing and editing the original manuscript, and the book is well written.

Mary credits a priest and her Catholic religion for her recovery from alcoholism and her peace of mind. Her story, like that of Anthony Quinn, shows that career success can often be accompanied by mental breakdown, alcoholism, drug-addiction, sexual promiscuity, and personal tragedy in the family life and social life. Frances Farmer's story is not greatly dissimilar.

I found the book interesting, but more as a warning against seeking success in worldly terms, than as a guide to living.

Atcheson, Richard

The Bearded Lady: Going on the Commune Trip and Beyond
New York, The John Day Company (1971, Atcheson) 365p.

The author and his friend Steve Bornstein travelled in Western U. S. A. to investigate various types of communal living. The author is bisexual; Steve heterosexual; before they conclude their adventures they have a drug-mystical experience in which they see God as androgynous, hence the title of the book.

Paramount in motivation for people to live in communes is their need to merge their personalities with those of other human beings: to share the joys and sorrows of life with kindred spirits, and to get away from the regimented and institutionalized world of work and family life which the capitalistic and competitive society dictates. There is also a need to experiment in order to break away from taboos and social customs which have been made meaningless by the advances of technology.

Atcheson is a marijuana smoker, and follows his own inclinations freely insofar as sex is concerned. His wife and children stayed in their large home in New Jersey, but on one occasion his wife flew out to the west coast to see him before he left on a travel assignment for Holiday Magazine to replenish finances.

The various communes they visited are described by one or other of the two travelers, and in most cases are merely shallow and incidental summaries of the aims and personalities involved. The problems faced and in some cases conquered by the communes are often created by their attempt to go against the mores of the majority. Naturally, the majority of the communards are young people, but some are of older generations who have rebelled for years against the dehumanizing trend of industrialized society.

Although I am sympathetic, I am also old-fashioned enough to feel that only strong leadership can maintain communal life over long periods of time. To be wholly unselfish, indifferent to personal ownership, seems to me also to imply irresponsibility, rootlessness. It is relatively easy for those with no possessions to share: what alternative have they, if they are not to starve? This is, however, a most interesting book, and one which I feel will be often referred to in considering the changes which modern living conditions are bringing.

Atkey, Bertram

Harvest of Javelins: A Tale Out of the East; New York,
Grosset & Dunlap (1923, Brentano's, Inc.) 300p.

This is a fairly serious romantic novel, concerning the heir of nobility, an Egyptian courtesan, an adventurer, and a young American woman seeking her husband in Egypt who falls in love with the nobleman. He falls under the spell of the courtesan, who blackmails him by claiming to have borne his child and collects large sums with the help of the adventurer who claims to be the friend of the nobleman.

A renegade Englishman captures the nobleman and the adventurer and claims the courtesan as ransom for their release. She escapes by the aid of a former executioner, but is held in thrall by the renegade, who, at the conclusion, claims to be the father of her child, thus freeing the nobleman and his then wife, the American girl whose husband is thought to have been killed by the nobleman, but whose heart had acted up and placed him in a death-like state from which he recovered only to die of drug addiction.

I found this a well-plotted and interesting story, more serious than the author's "Smiler Bunn" series, well-written and portraying the plight of a man susceptible to women who permits himself a liason with a courtesan, and, despite the warning of an uncle, reaps the consequences of his folly.

I had this among my fantasy books, but do not consider it other than a straight novel. It is worth re-reading for its portrayal of a situation which probably arises in more cases than are publicised.

Atkins, Thomas R.

Science Fiction Films; New York, Simon & Schuster, Inc.
(1976); Illustrated; (Monarch Film Studies) 101p.

This book is a symposium of essays on various of the better science fiction films, beginning with Verne's A Trip to the Moon and concluding with Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. It has a selective bibliography.

It concentrates on Invasion of the Body Snatchers as the most intellectually stimulating of all the movies.

This is a book I ordered for Ron Gallant, so took the opportunity to read it before I mailed it on to him.

Atkinson, Alex; and Searle, Ronald

The Big City, or, The New Mayhew; Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England, Penguin Books (#1856); (1962), (L958) 111p.

These sketches originally appeared in Punch, with one exception. Searle's drawings enhance the interest of the pieces, which are in themselves good summaries of interviews with specimens of London's poor of many types. Portraying so many people whose existence is apparently of so little importance or value to society as a whole, and whose interest in life is so minimal, one wonders at humanity's worth.

This is a book which can be read almost at random, but suggests no remedies apart from the gradual amelioration of their lot through the improvement of social services. This may be the only solution, as long as our economic system is not altered.

It is a book worth keeping handy for reference.

Atkinson, Frank (Robert Shallow, Pseudonym)

Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms; 2nd Edition; Hamden, Conn., Linnet Books; London, Clive Bingley (1977) 248p.
(First Edition, 1975, under title: Dictionary of pseudonyms and pen-names.)

Although far from complete, and ignoring books published anonymously or with no author shown, this is a helpful and instructive guide to the correct identity of authors. I have been surprised to learn that many writers of books in my collection use pen-names.

I noticed two errors, and believe there may be many others.

"Jack Vance" is said to be Henry Kuttner. Mistake.
"Sax Rohmer" is said to be Arthur Sarsfield Wade, but is actually Arthur Sarsfield Ward.

I should keep this book easily available for reference.

Rather poorly written, and with this is still an early science fiction discovery of radium and its possible



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Une fois que nous recevrons votre déclaration dûment remplie, nous modifierons nos dossiers.

Aton, James L.

Creatures of the Ray; Argosy -Allstory Weekly, October 10, 1925, pp.400-409 incl.

Assigned to interview Professor Gilreath by his editor of the Chicago World, reporter giving his name as Jonas Olson pretends to be a fellow scientist. He has learned from Mrs. Warren, occupant of a large farmhouse nearby and who takes meals to the professor, that she is renting pasture to other farmers at \$2.00 per month because they are hoping that their cattle will suffer the destructive fate of a cow whose owner had been paid three times its worth by the professor after it was destroyed by a GL Ray he was operating from his circular, bee-hive like dwelling.

Gilreath suspects Olson of being a reporter, but welcomes him as witness to an experiment he is making. Through one of the porthole-like windows he trains the Ray on an ant-hill and in the early morning following Olson awakes to see two long hairy antennae invading his open porthole. When they are withdrawn, a leg invades, which he cuts off; but by means of a ten-foot mirror he views hundreds of ants grown to monstrous size, which have eaten many cows, capture and destroy Mrs. Warren, and eat about fifty of the village inhabitants. The professor gloats over the destruction of humans because he is convinced that the ants are superior, and that they will be the masters of earth.

The Ray shift, however, and focusses on a hill of red ants. These battle the black ants, and the professor, whose madness overpowers him, dashes outside to try to prevent the warring ants from destroying each other. They kill him, and Olson increases the power of the Ray until he can destroy all the giant ants; but his horror at these events causes him to break down and he awakens in hospital.

Recovering, he is horrified to hear from another reporter that another scientist has discovered a similar ray, and is to interview him. Olson writes his story in an effort to persuade people to insist that scientific investigation must be stopped before discoveries enable them to destroy mankind.

Rather poorly written, and with hackneyed plot and events, this is still an early science fiction story based on the discovery of radium and its possible future development.

Atwood, Ann

Haiku: The Mood of Earth; New York, Charles Scribner's
Sons (1971, author) unpaginated.

This book of nature photography assembles thoughts and philosophy regarding the illustrations condensed into about 17 syllables to convey the mood. The idea of the eternal is expressed in the transitory.

Although this is a beautiful book, I am not capable of assimilating its intended significance, and will donate it to Ellen if she does not already have a copy.

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C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
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Atwood, Margaret

Lady Oracle; Toronto, McClelland & Stewart-Bantam Limited (Seal Books #1505), August, 1977, (Sept., 1976) 345p.

Chronologically, Part 1 of this novel precedes Part 5 and is therefore confusing as it mentions cryptically events elucidated in the other three parts of the story. For the sake of clarity, these notes will summarize the heroine's life from childhood.

Her father a surgeon, and during the war a secret agent become accustomed to killing; her mother a neurotic, finical social climber whose disappointed aspirations led her to blame her husband and her unwanted daughter and finally to seek consolation in liquor; Joan, whose mother said she had named her after Joan Crawford, sought comfort through excessive eating and became 100 pounds overweight. Her aunt, whom she loved, and who was kind to her, left her \$2,000 on condition that she lose this excess.

Succeeding, Joan left home after her mother threatened her with a knife during a drinking bout, but kept in touch with her father by mail. In London, England, she became the mistress of a Polish "count" who wrote "nurse" novels under an assumed name, and herself started writing Gothics secretly.

Her aunt had taken her to spiritualistic seances where the medium had assured her that she had psychic powers, and several incidents involving the appearance of the astral or spirit form of her mother confirmed this. She was encouraged to practise automatic writing, and ultimately by this means wrote a book called Lady Oracle which became a literary success and made necessary her hiding her identity as authoress of trashy Gothics.

A blackmailing reporter discovered her identity, traced her life back to the fat girl she had been and whose appearance had shamed her so that she had hidden the fact from her husband, teacher of literature and enthusiast of various "causes" to the extent that he ceased while at the peaks of these to give her adequate marital enjoyment. Managing to foil the reporter, Joan was still menaced by mysterious phone calls, notes, and dead animals left at or near her home; and with the connivance of friends plotted a faked death and her disappearance when it appeared probable that her husband knew or would soon know that she had committed adultery with an impecunious stranger she had met at a party and whom she found sexually fascinating.

Her anonymity in Italy, whence she had fled, was foiled when she learned that the friends who had assisted her to fake death were being accused of murdering her, and when she hit an investigating reporter with a bottle. The novel ends with her ruefully considering the mess of her life.

Some of the problems of a divided life and dual identity are made clear, and parts of the Gothics she wrote are used to illustrate her formula for them.

Radix; New York, William Morrow and Company, Inc.,
1981 (1981, Author); Worldline; Profiles; Argot 467p.

This first novel is a blockbuster vision of life thirteen centuries ahead when telepathic aliens seek control of normal and radiation-maimed humans, and when normal genetic ability is a most highly-prized physiologic and social asset.

Sumner Kagan is a white-card genetic, but an overweight slum dweller, whose mother is psychic. Persecuted by gangs, Sumner becomes a secret killer, signing himself "Sugarat" when he has murdered his oppressors, dreaming of idyllic love relations with beautiful women but doomed to frustration because of his obesity. Caught finally and exposed by a capable police chief, he is brutalized in police camp, but trained and hardened physically becomes a Ranger, or elite killer, chosen to defend the tyrannical Masseboth normals.

Carrying within himself his half-alien son Corby, Sumner is told that he is the alter ego of the Delph, a god-mind whose knowledge sums up human experience, but whose consciousness is that of a dreamer rather than a guardian of humanity. Menaced by an artificial intelligence and being named Nefandi, coached by Boneserolls who is nearing the end of his own life, and accompanied by two distort or mutants named Ardent Fang and Drift, he seeks control of the Delph.

Although the reader is assisted by the Worldline, Profiles, and Argot to understand the history, nature and functions of the inhabitants of this future earth, the constant necessity to refer to these appendixes interrupts the course of the narrative and reduces the suspense of the story. Told sometimes in prose crystal-clear and sometimes very obscure, this novel is difficult reading; and only the unusual concepts make it worthwhile.

Like Karl Hansen's War Games, this novel portrays a world which would have little attraction for human beings with aesthetic interests and aims, and with a desire for normal social life. A world of fear and oppression, with supernormal powers and entities constantly menacing the pursuit of peaceful life, is a dark vision which leaves the reader with a feeling of hopelessness.

I doubt if many readers of popular science fiction and fantasy will persevere sufficiently to finish reading this book. It may, however, become the subject of critical analysis by the academics.

Chester D. Cuthbert.



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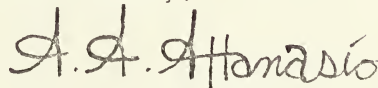
105 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

Dear Fellow SF Writer,

Enclosed is a copy of RADIX, my first novel.

Fortunately, my publisher recognizes SFWA's merit enough to forward a copy to each of you. I'm proud to be part of an organization whose members go out to the brink of linguistics, to reach by sleight of word the edge of a vision where the unimaginable rends itself to that strangest and most human of all realities -- the story. With bone-tender humility, I submit my work for your consideration. After all, you, the Collective Dreamers and Haunters of English Literature, are the ones we as individual sf writers test our professional mettle against. You know the pain and thrill of seeking the verbal charge that sparks the visual to the visionary. We share a tradition, a way of seeing the world in its largest scope, that I hope my book conveys. Like all of us, I'm trying to connect the indirections of our violent history with the stupendous potential of our human spirit. Much of what I've written will be familiar to you, since I believe that within the instincts and clichés of our lives and literature is the shape of our future. Humanity begins with the discovery of fire. Fire begins with the stars.

Sincerely,



A. A. Attanasio

501 Hahaione Street
1-13F
Honolulu, HI 96825

wed 18 nov 81

Dear Mr. Cuthbert,

Thank you for your sincere letter and forthright appraisal of my first novel. The meticulousness of your review reveals a sensitive and apotropaic intelligence, and I appreciate the time you've taken to respond to my work. From the encouraging tone of your letter, I sense a kinship with the intrinsic face.

Yes, some of my first stories did appear in Victor Boruta's occult fanzines TAMLACHT and 4-D back in the 60s. That's really going back for me, pre-Nam, to the wonderous taming of my adolescence, and I'm happy to be reminded of that exciting time. Also, I'm gratified that you've found some merit in RADIX, and I accept your reservations about the complexity of my conceits and devices: Two years after the fact, I too sigh at the laboriousness of numerous passages. But I must disagree with your contention that my vision is gloomy and that my emphasis is on the dark. Actually, my attempt was to demonstrate the great strength of individuality in the face of society's brutal collectivizations, the immanent evil of the human heart, and fate. Those are the very factors which have shaped our souls and the destinies of our ancestors and with which the powers of spirit must contend. Within this violent but realistic psychic space, I have emphasized, obviously blunderfully, the only redemption available to us time-bound entities -- love.

Disappointment darkles in me when I think that my novel left you feeling hopeless. The beginning of love and completion is always here in this inscrutable, ferocious, and beautiful world. With the right attitude, won through the transformation of pain into suffering, everything is best.

Wishing you the ascendancy of your dreams,



A. A. Attanasio

300-G Kawaihae Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Aubry, Octave

On the King's Couch; Translated by Evelyn Johnson; New York, Boni & Liveright (1927, Publishers) 250p.

Like Aldington's The Romance of Casanova, this is the novelized version of one of Casanova's love affairs, giving fuller details of Anne Roman-Couppier by whose horoscope Casanova predicted that she would become mistress of Louis XV and bear him a son, which later transpired.

This novel is based on thorough research and is well written and interesting. The sophistication of eighteenth century France is portrayed accurately, if cynically, but without criticism of its immorality.

Although failing to seduce Anne at his first encounter, Casanova is said by Aubry to have succeeded later not only with Anne but with her sister, whose ambition and greed led her to Casanova's suspicion that she had poisoned Madame de Pompadour. The relations between Anne and the King are so clearly delineated, and the exposure of Anne's relations with Casanova so definitely ending with her banishment to a convent and separation from her son, that the story carries conviction.

This novel, like Aldington's, is mentioned in bibliographies on Casanova, and is an important commentary on his life.

Austin, William A.

Commit the Sins; Chicago, Newsstand Library Inc. (1961,
Author) 190p.

This is a poorly written, disorganized novel portraying the life of a lesbianly-inclined taxi driver who falls in love with a worthless drinking musician, has casual affairs with other men and women, and ends up encouraging him to go back to musical work after he has been sentenced to 90 days in jail for drunk driving.

An abused deaf-mute pretty girl brings about her own impregnation as a means of avenging herself against her own father, and her mother assists at putting this cruel man at hazard. There is no conclusion to this story, and loose ends are left hanging.

About the only value to these cheap soft-porn books is their common portrayal of worthless life-styles, aimlessness and futility. The sensational effects of sex and drink offer the only relief from boredom, and lead to depression and resignation to ultimate ruin. I have read enough of them to quell any inclination to emulate followers of night-life.

notion, J. Britten

"Battlewreck"

Hodder and Stoughton

London, New York, Toronto N.D.
Contents

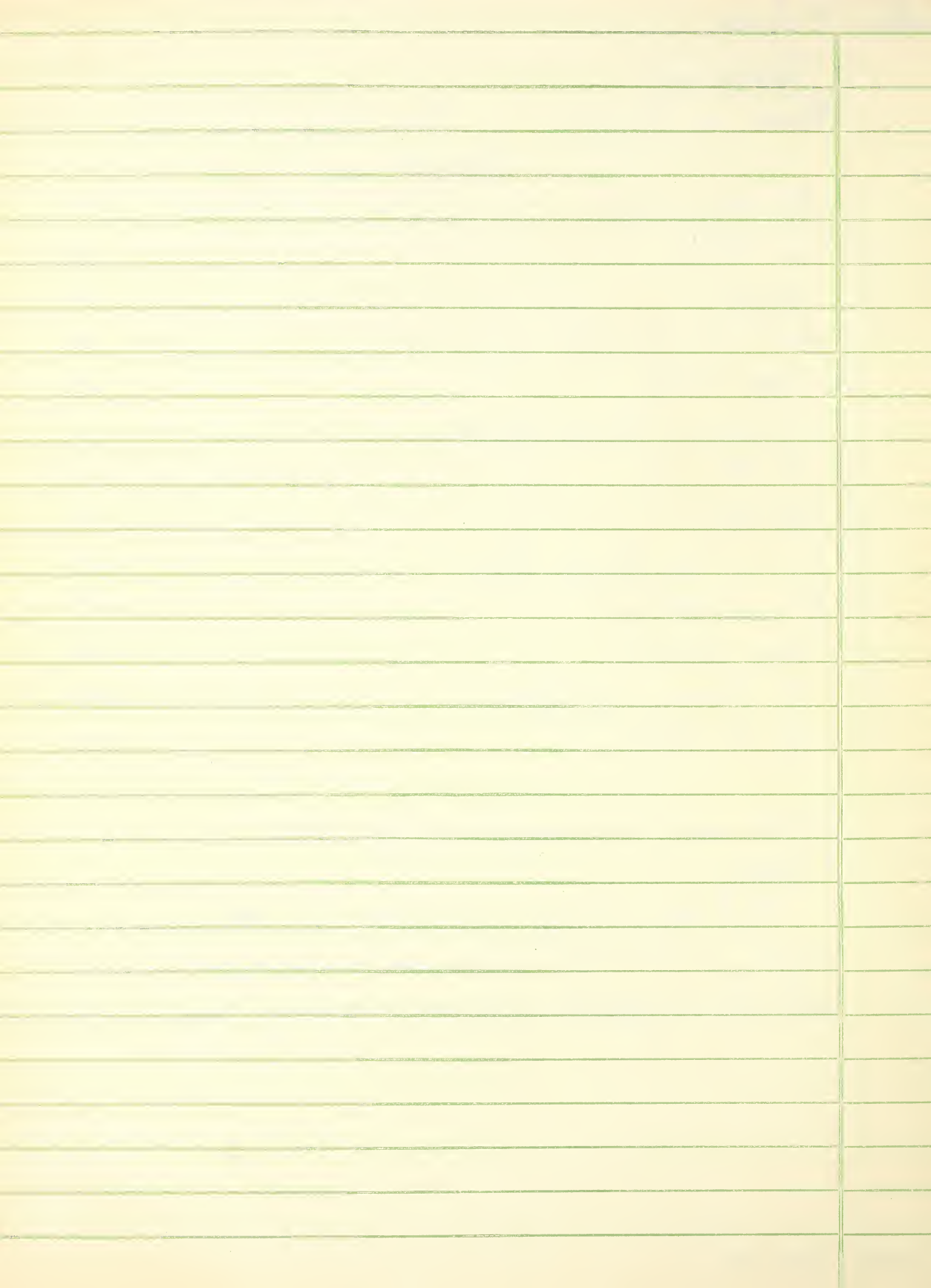
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° Written and in some cases published before 1917

^x Fantasy.

These stories, though well written, have little of human interest excepting 2, 6, 7, 12 + 13. 6 deals with oriental hypnotism; and 7 deals with an apparition of the dead, indicating belief in an after-life.



Christ or Barabbas : A Psychic Novel; Los Angeles,
Cal., Austin Publishing Co. (1921); Wraps 142p.

See Nitsua, Benjamin, pseud.

Beginning in Boston in the year 1906 where three or four students gathered, two wagered about one of them meeting and marrying a waitress within a month. Rose Cameron is seduced into a mock marriage with Charles Havergal, bears him a child, and after having been told of his death by drowning, goes to California under apparent psychic guidance and becomes a domestic in his father's home.

Charles returning on a visit is confronted by Rose, and admits in his mother's hearing the deception he has practised. Rose, for love of Charles' mother, keeps quiet, but is forced from his father's church as an immoral woman.

Rose meets a prophet and seer named Whitman, whose second wife, an actress, is plotting with a lawyer to deprive him of a farm, his last appreciable asset. The lawyer, Stone, hires rioters to attack Whitman and Rose, then kills Whitman and by circumstantial evidence casts suspicion on Rose as his paramour and assassin.

During the riot, Rose and Whitman are defended by a young lawyer named Williams, who hires a detective named Thompson to assist in clearing Rose. Thompson spies on Stone, gathers evidence to clear Rose of both the moral accusations and the murder, and ultimately Rose accepts Williams' offer of marriage.

Whitman's prophetic power, and his optimistic view of mankind, include a belief in communication with spirits; and this, together with Rose's early guidance to California, are the main reasons for denoting in as psychic and consequently fantastic. This is not an important book in any respect, and why the title should include any mention of Barabbas is not clear. Whitman (probably representing Austin himself) is portrayed as believing himself a possible successor to Jesus; and this is the only apparent reason for the title.

Primarily a religious novel, its psychic element is enough to qualify it for consideration as fantasy.

Austin, F. Britten

The War-God Walks Again; London, Williams & Norgate,
Ltd., 1926; 247pp.

Contents

Introduction by Major-General Sir Ernest Swinton, K. B. E., C. B., D. S. O. ("Ole Luk-Oie")	Page 1
1. When the War-God Walks Again	11
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3. A Battlepiece: Old Style	91
4. A Battlepiece: New Style	127
5. Goliath	167
6. They Who Laughed	207

Excepting #3, these are all "future war" stories. The first warns of tanks and poison gas; #2 of the necessity to maintain battleships in the Pacific; #4 warns of the probability of air supremacy; #5 shows the impotence of even the largest battleship if airplanes use poison gas at sea; #6 suggests the recognition of air power and the use of "Compound A" - Lachrymatory-Cacchinatorium" gas to immobilize a "red" attempt to take over England.

These stories are all well-written, but they are mainly concerned with military situations rather than with people. Within their limitations, they are important.

Austin, Mary

The Trail Book; Illustrations (some in color) by Milo Winter; Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1918 284p. plus Appendix and Glossary of Indian and Spanish Names making up 305p.

This book is not listed in Bleiler, possibly because it consists of Indian stories and legends re-told for children.

It is definitely cast in the form of fantasy fiction, however, and Bleiler lists other books which are less fantastic, since this one goes back to the time of the mammoths.

The author is an authority on Indian lore, and this is an important book.

It may be considered as historical fantasy.

AVON DETECTIVE MYSTERIES NO. 3 (1947)

Edited by Wollheim, this issue is important as containing the first printing of "Miss Darkness" by Fredric Brown (later reprinted in Mostly Murder), and also for publishing three fantasy items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| 1. Pale Pink Porcelain | Frank Owen | 19 |
| 2. Mr. Lupescu | Anthony Boucher | 49 |
| 3. The Case of the Headless Mummies | Sax Rohmer | 54 |

The third of these is likely included in The Dream Detective; yes, I have confirmed this.

The Seven Year Itch: A Romantic Comedy; New York, Bantam Books (#1371), (July, 1955), (1952, author) 114p.

Ballantine Books published a photo album of Marilyn Monroe as "The Girl" starring in the movie version of this three-act play.

Richard Sherman, a paperback publisher's editor, is left alone in his apartment when his wife and child go on vacation. Nearly killed when a metallic tomato pot falls from the balcony of the apartment above, he invites its occupant to visit him for a drink after he learns that she has posed nude in a photographic magazine; and they have a one-night stand before an admirer of his wife calls for a sweater he has forgotten to send her by parcel post.

Although fearful of consequences, Richard has smoked and drunk against the worders of his doctor and his wife, and is guiltily anxious to make amends to his wife by delivering the sweater himself.

This is a light, sophisticated play, of no importance except to demonstrate how easy it is to become unfaithful if the circumstances are propitious.

Ayden, Erje

The Crazy Green of Second Avenue; New York, N. Y.,
Canyon Books (1965); Foreword by Seymour Krim; Preface by
Frank O'Hara 160p.

This chaotic novel is alleged to portray the genesis and ultimate destruction of an alcoholic, emphasizing various sexual incidents from early childhood, yielding to which the protagonist, who comes of a wealthy family and can afford to cater to his lusts, finds himself confined to a hospital for an attempted cure, and ultimately, through divorce and disintegration, leads an aimless and hopeless life.

If there is anything to be learned from this book, it is simply that an aimless existence leads to self-destruction.

